

# Leptinella minor

## COMMON NAMES

Banks Peninsula button daisy

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS


Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Monoecious, creeping perennial herb forming open or diffuse patches.

**Rhizomes** at soil surface, slender to stout 0.5–2 mm diameter; early season branches clustered, with up to 5 radiating from around a flowering node; branches produced later in season usually single at flowering nodes. **Leaves** 3–10, usually clustered but in vigorous growth spaced up to 20 mm apart. **Short shoots** absent or with 1–few small leaves. **Roots** 0.5–1 mm diameter, thick, coriaceous. **Leaves** 1-pinnatifid, 10–50 × 3–10 mm; blade 3–40 mm, dull green usually with much brown pigment on proximal pinnae, obovate, coriaceous, more or less glabrous; pinnae 5–12 pairs, not overlapping, cut to rhachis, obovate, teeth 0–7 per pinna, usually restricted to proximal pinnae, on distal margins, cut  $\frac{1}{2}$ – across pinna, oblong, obtuse and minutely mucronate. **Peduncles** borne on rhizomes, equal or longer than leaves, slender, 20–50 mm long, ebracteate or with 1 bract, pilose hairy. **Capitula** 4–6 mm diameter; surface convex, involucre outspread; involucre bracts 15–20, equally biseriate, suborbicular, pilose hairy, with a wide brown scarious margin; pistillate florets 70–130, 2- or more seriate, 1.75 mm long, straight, white; corolla longer than wide, teeth equal; staminate florets equal in number. **Cypsela** 1 × 0.5 mm, pale brown when mature, slightly compressed, transversely wrinkled.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Leptinella minor* is very closely allied to *L. filiformis* (Hook.f.) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb and *L. nana* (D.G.Lloyd) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb, the three in fact forming a distinct clade using nrDNA ITS sequences. From *L. nana*, *L. minor* is readily distinguished by its taller stature, dull green leaves and white capitula. It is however, extremely close to *L. filiformis*, from which it differs by its larger more robust habit, thicker rhizomes (2 mm cf. < 1 mm diameter), larger and longer leaves (10–50 mm cf. 5–20 mm long), bearing more numerous teeth (especially on the proximal pinnae) and larger capitula (4–6 mm cf. 2–3 mm diameter).

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island (Banks Peninsula, historic herbarium specimens show it was once on the Canterbury Plains).



Banks Peninsula. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Base of capitulum showing involucre bracts. In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 17/04/2017, Licence: CC BY.

## HABITAT

Sea level to 600 m a.s.l., on rock outcrops and associated open, rubbly skeletal soils. Usually found in sites within little surrounding vegetation. Sometimes in open grassland.

## THREATS

A naturally uncommon, range restricted species which can be locally abundant on parts of Banks Peninsula. It is possible that some populations have declined due to the spread of introduced weeds (especially grasses) but there is no documentation to demonstrate this.

## GENUS

Leptinella

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

Leptinella minor Hook.f.

## SYNONYMS

Cotula haastii Kirk, Cotula minor (Hook.f.) Hook.f.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

September–July

## FRUITING

September–August

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Papery cypselae are dispersed by wind and possibly attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from the division of established plants and from fresh seed. This is an attractive, long flowering species which makes an excellent rock garden plant. It flourishes best in a sunny situation when planted in a free draining, fertile soil. Dislikes humidity.

## CULTIVATION

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

## ETYMOLOGY

**leptinella**: From the Greek word leptos (meaning slender, thin or delicate), referring to the ovary

**minor**: Smaller

## NVS CODE

LEPMIN

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 52

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Lloyd DG. 1972. A revision of the New Zealand, Subantarctic, and South American species of *Cotula*, section *Leptinella*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 10(2): 277–372. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1972.10429156>.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 31 August 2006. Description from Lloyd (1972)—as *Cotula minor*.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Leptinella minor* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptinella-minor/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptinella-minor/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026