

Leptinella pectinata subsp. villosa

SYNONYMS

Cotula villosa G.Simpson, *Cotula pectinata* subsp. *villosa* (G.Simpson) D.G.Lloyd

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Leptinella pectinata subsp. *villosa* (G.Simpson) D.G.Lloyd et C.J.Webb

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

LEPPSV

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 56, 104

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, south-western Canterbury, Otago and Southland.

HABITAT

.Montane to alpine (> 300 m a.s.l.) in tussock grassland and herbfield



Grampian range, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Monoecious, creeping, glabrate to villous hairy, grey-green, perennial herb forming diffuse patches, or tight mats amongst tussocks and other herbs. Rhizomes at or near soil surface, stout, up to 2 mm diameter, somewhat wiry, dark, densely villous, glabrate, rarely glabrous; branches solitary, or in clusters of 4 radiating out from a flowering node, if solitary then arising if internodes are long; leaves initially clustered around shoot apex, often remaining crowded but sometimes spaced up to 20 mm apart. Short shoots absent. Roots extensive, wiry, much branched, up to 1 mm diameter. Leaves 1-pinnatifid, occasionally simple, 7-40 x 2-10 mm; blade up to 30 mm, elliptic, obovate, to broadly obovate, firmly coriaceous, dark green, sparsely to densely covered in greyish-white, villous hairs or glabrate, midrib not raised on ventral surface; pinnae 1-10 pairs, or absent, close-set or distant, cut to rhachis, linear to narrowly obovate, more or less cylindrical to flat, teeth usually absent, occasionally with 1-3 per pinna, these mostly on proximal margin, cut 1/2 across pinna, triangular, obtuse. Peduncles very much > leaves, 10-100 mm, ebracteate or rarely with 1 simply bract, densely covered in villous hairs or glabrate. Capitula 4-8 mm diameter; involucre subcampanulate; involucre bracts 12-24, subequally 2- or more seriate, oblong, dark green to purple green, with 1-3 dark veins, with wide brown scarious margins, densely villous hairy to glabrate; pistillate flowers 12-200, 2.25-2.75 mm long, straight, yellow or yellow-red, often with 1-2 dark stripes along corolla and ovary; corolla much > than wide, dentition equal; staminate florets more numerous than pistillate. Cypsela 2.1 x 0.7 mm, golden-brown, compressed, biconvex, slightly to deeply wrinkled.

SIMILAR TAXA

Leptinella pectinata subsp. *villosa* differs from *L. pectinata* (Hook.f.) D.G.Lloyd et C.J.Webb subsp. *pectinata* by its glabrate to densely grey-white, villous hairy rather than sparsely villous hairy or glabrescent rhizomes, leaves and peduncles, and yellow to yellow-red rather than white florets. From subsp. *willcoxii* (Cheeseman) D.G.Lloyd et C.J.Webb, subsp. *villosa* differs by its hairy (rather than glabrous), narrower leaves, bearing 5 or more pinnae (cf. 5 or less in subsp. *willcoxii*), and by the pinna which are linear to narrowly obovate (cf. broadly oblong to obovate). Distinction from *L. albida* (D.G.Lloyd) D.G.Lloyd et C.J.Webb is not always as clear cut, both species mostly differ cytologically, subsp. *villosa* is usually tetraploid and *L. albida* is diploid, but some populations of subsp. *villosa* within the range of *L. albida* are diploid as well. Otherwise both taxa differ in that *L. albida* is copiously covered in silvery-white, woolly hairs and subsp. *villosa* is sparsely to densely covered in grey-white hairs.

FLOWERING

November - February

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Yellow

FRUITING

December - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown in cultivation. Best propagated by division. Does well in a free draining, sunny situation. It does not relish excessive moisture and humidity.

ETYMOLOGY

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

pectinata: Comb-bearing

villosa: From Latin (villus) meaning shaggy or hairy.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (31 August 2006). Description from Lloyd (1972) - as *Cotula pectinata* subsp. *villosa*.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Lloyd, D.G. 1972: A revision of the New Zealand, Subantarctic, and South American species of *Cotula*, section *Leptinella*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 10: 277-372.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Leptinella pectinata* subsp. *villosa* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptinella-pectinata-subsp-villosa/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptinella-pectinata-subsp-villosa/>