

Leptinella pyrethrifolia var. linearifolia

COMMON NAMES

Red Hills 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

Cream, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

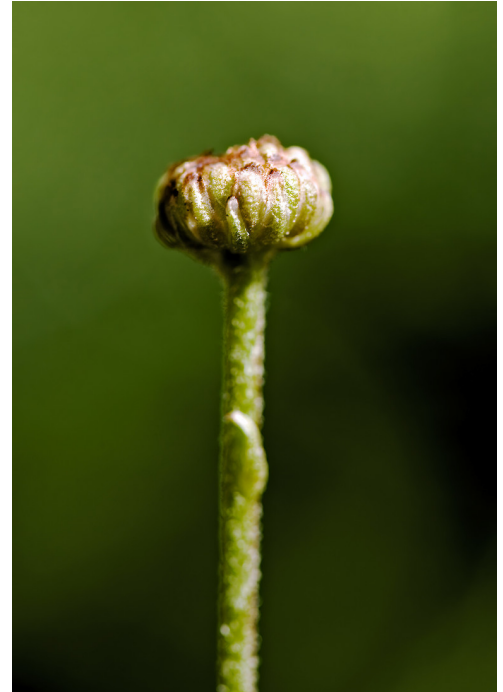
Gynodioecious creeping perennial herb forming circular patches up to 1 m wide. Rhizomes on soil surface or intertangled and lying on older, decaying rhizomes, stout, somewhat fleshy 1-3 mm diameter, dark green to purple-red, sparsely pilose hairy, becoming woody and glabrous with age; branches usually clustered with up to 6 radiating from around a flowering node; leaves clustered at apex, sometimes with older leaves up to 30 mm apart. Roots extensive, stout, up to 200 x 1 mm. Leaves 5-25 x 1-3 mm; blade 4-10 mm long, linear, entire, rarely with one lobe up to 2 mm long near apex on one or both sides, coriaceous, fleshy, dark red-green, glabrous midrib not raised on ventral surface. Peduncles longer than leaves, 20-120 mm, dark red green, with 1-8 evenly spaced, small linear bracts, rarely ebracteate, sparsely pilose. Capitula fragrant, pistillate, staminate or bisexual (on different plants). Pistillate capitula 5-15 mm diameter, surface flat or slightly convex; involucre hemispherical; involucre bracts 20-110, subequally 2- or more seriate, fleshy, oblong, dark green, with a single dark vein evident, glabrous, with wide brown scarious margins; florets 50-200, 2.75-4 mm long, straight, white, cream or lemon-yellow; corolla 2-4 times as long as wide, dentition equal. Staminate capitula 5-18 mm diameter, surface convex; involucre spreading or flat; involucre bracts 10-60; florets 40-300, occasionally with a dark stripe down the broader part of the corolla. Bisexual capitula intermediate, numbers of pistillate and staminate florets varying from plant to plant. Cypsela 2.3 x 1 mm, dark brown, compressed, biconvex, slightly wrinkled.

SIMILAR TAXA

Leptinella pyrethrifolia var. *linearifolia* (Cheeseman) D.G.Lloyd et C.J.Webb is easily distinguished from var. *pyrethrifolia*, it has linear red-green leaves (rarely with an apical lobing), rather than dark green 1-pinnatifid leaves, dark brown rather than golden-brown seeds, and is confined to ultramafic substrates in the Red Hills, upper Wairau Valley.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Marlborough. An ultramafic endemic of the Red Hills.



In cultivation ex Red Hills. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 15/03/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Red Hills. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 08/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.

HABITAT

An ultramafic endemic found on water logged or free draining soils, rubble, talus or within open sites within the predominantly *Chionochloa defracta* Connor dominated tussock grasslands of that region.

THREATS

Not threatened but listed because it is a narrow range endemic of restricted distribution.

GENUS

Leptinella

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Leptinella pyrethrifolia var. *linearifolia* (Cheeseman) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb

SYNONYMS

Cotula linearifolia Cheeseman, *Cotula pyrethrifolia* var. *linearifolia* (Cheeseman) D.G.Lloyd

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

September - January

FRUITING

October - May

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from rooted pieces and odes well in most garden situations. It prefers a sunny situation and is tolerant of wet or dry conditions. Although it will grow without it, this plant benefits from regular applications of a magnesium rich fertiliser.

ETYMOLOGY

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

pyrethrifolia: Pyrethrum-leaved

linearifolia: With linear leaves

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 156$

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

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.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309.

ATTRIBUTION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptinella-pyrethrifolia-var-linearifolia/>

PDF DATE

25 August 2026