

Leptinella serrulata

COMMON NAME

Dryland button daisy

SYNONYMS

Cotula serrulata D.G.Lloyd

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Leptinella serrulata (D.G.Lloyd) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

LEPSE

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 52

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Declining

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Gradual Decline

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island east of the main divide from Marlborough (Wairau River) south to the Foveaux Strait, mainly well inland from Canterbury to Otago.

HABITAT

Sea level to 1500 m a.s.l. Usually found in dry intermontane basins and along river flats where it grows in open sites amongst tussock grassland. More rarely coastal, where it colonises open sandy ground.



Photographer: Tony Silbery



Photographer: Cathy Jones

FEATURES

Dioecious, creeping, perennial herb forming small tufted patches within open grassland. Rhizomes buried, pale, wiry and glabrous; branches infrequent, usually single at flowering nodes; basally clad in scales grading up to leaves spirally-arranged and set 5-15 mm apart. Short shoots growing up from buried rhizomes, bearing 3-6 tufted leaves near apices. Roots slender, easily broken, 0.4 mm diameter. Leaves 1-pinnatifid, 7-20 x 2-6 mm; blade 6-20 mm, green, glaucous or purple-black, elliptic or obovate, submembranous, older leaves usually diffusely brown-pigmented, hairy to densely silvery-hairy, midrib raised along most of ventral surface though sometimes obscured by hairs; pinnae 8-20 pairs, close-set, overlapping, cut to rhachis, broadly obovate; teeth on all or the majority of pinnae, up to 6 per pinna, on distal margins, cut c.1/2 across pinna, close-set, more or less oblong, obtuse, sometimes obscured by hairs. Peduncles villous hairy, on short shoots, about equal in length to leaves, 10-30 mm, ebracteate or bearing 1 simple bract. Pistillate capitula 2-4 mm and up to 8 mm diameter in fruit; surface convex; involucre urceolate; involucral bracts 20-40, unequally 3- or more seriate, broadly elliptic, green, villous, elongated after anthesis to enclose subglobose fruiting head; florets 30-95, 2 mm long, curved, yellow-green, corolla marginally longer than wide, dentition unequal. Staminate capitula 3-5 mm diameter; involucre hemispherical; involucral bracts 8-15, unequally uni-, or biseriate, not elongated after anthesis; florets slightly more numerous. Cypsela 1.4 x 0.8 mm, initially chartaceous and pale maturing brown and smooth, slightly compressed, unwrinkled.

SIMILAR TAXA

Leptinella pusilla Hook.f. and *L. calcarea* (D.G.Lloyd) D.G.Lloyd et C.J.Webb are most similar to *L. serrulata*. *Leptinella calcarea* differs by its rigidly stiff, fleshy leaves lacking any brown pigmentation, it is also geographically isolated from both *L. serrulata* and *L. pusilla*. *Leptinella pusilla* differs from *L. serrulata* by its glabrous to hairy, membranous leaves, bearing pinnae that are separated rather than overlapping, and by the pinnae teeth which are triangular rather than oblong. *L. serrulata* is frequently sympatric with *L. pusilla*.

FLOWERING

September - November (-January)

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

FRUITING

October - February

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from rooted pieces and by the division of established plants. Fresh seed should germinate easily.

THREATS

A lowland to montane species of open tussock grasslands. It has declined in abundance in many areas due to the spread of hawkweeds and introduced grasses, habitat modification and agricultural intensification (e.g. cultivation and irrigation).

ETYMOLOGY

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

serrulata: Rough edged

WHERE TO BUY

Sold by many nurseries usually by the name *Cotula perpusilla* cv. Platts Black. *Cotula perpusilla* is the same species as *Leptinella pusilla*.

ATTRIBUTION

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

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.

CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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