

# Leptinella traillii subsp. pulchella

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: Sp, DPR, DPS, DPT, RR

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## CATEGORY

Vascular


## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dioecious, creeping, perennial herb forming an open to loosely matted turf. **Rhizomes** at or near soil surface, green, dark green to brown, pliant, villously hairy; branches uncommon, usually single at flowering nodes; leaves in two rows, single at apex, 5–20 mm apart. Short shoots alternate on both sides of rhizome, bearing up to 6 clustered leaves, rarely converted into rhizomes with distant leaves. **Roots** slender, weak, white up to 0.6 mm diameter. **Leaves** 1-pinnatifid, 10–50 × 4–10 mm; lamina 10–40 mm, obovate, firmly fleshy (rarely weakly coriaceous), scarcely glandular punctate, dark green, with basal pinnae pigmented dark brown, sparsely villous; midrib slightly raised on proximal part of ventral surface; pinnae 4–10 pairs, equidistant, not overlapping, cut to rachis, oblong to broadly ovate (width less than length); with 4–(10) rather coarse and widely spaced, broadly triangular teeth per pinna, these confined to outer margin or rarely extending onto distal margin, cut   $\frac{1}{2}$  across pinna, acuminate with a sharp pale, often deciduous point, more or less obscured by a tuft or parallel hairs. **Peduncles** usually on rhizomes, about equal to leaves in length, 10–40 mm, ebracteate or with one simple bract, pilose-hairy. **Pistillate capitula** 3–5 mm diameter, up to 10 mm in fruit; surface convex; involucre urecolate; involucral bracts 15–20, unequally triseriate, broadly elliptic, green, more or less villous, with a broad hyaline, brown-tipped scarious margin; inner involucral bracts elongating after anthesis to enclose the subglobose fruiting head; florets 20–70, 2–5 mm long, curved, yellow-green; corolla slightly longer than wide, unequally toothed. **Staminate heads** 4–6 mm diameter, involucre hemispherical; involucral bracts 5–10 in 1–2 subequal rows, not extending after anthesis; florets generally more numerous. **Cypsela** up to 1.9 × 1 mm, brown, somewhat compressed, at first chartaceous becoming smooth at maturity.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Leptinella traillii* (Kirk) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb subsp. *traillii* is rather similar but it is endemic to the Stewart Island/Rakiura coastline and has distinctly leathery, firmer and thicker, glandular punctate leaves, and the pinna teeth are finer and smaller and evenly spaced.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Southland, northern side of the Foveaux Strait).

## HABITAT

Coastal, usually on seepages on cliff faces, amongst boulders or on cobble beaches. Sometimes in damp hollows or along stream sides draining sand dunes.

## THREATS

Not considered to face any active threats. A narrow range endemic that would be susceptible to adverse changes.

## GENUS

Leptinella

## FAMILY

Asteraceae



## AUTHORITY

*Leptinella traillii* subsp. *pulchella* (Kirk) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb

## SYNONYMS

*Cotula pulchella* Kirk, *Cotula dioica* var. *pulchella* (Kirk) Cheeseman, *C. traillii* subsp. *pulchella* (Kirk) D.G.Lloyd

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

August–October

## FRUITING

September–January

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from rooted pieces, once established very tolerant of trampling and drought but prefers a damp root run.

## CULTIVATION

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries. Often sold as *L. squalida* or *L. dioica*.

## CULTURAL USE/IMPORTANCE

One of the main contributing species to the so called “Maniototo” bowling green turfs (see *Leptinella maniototo* (Petrie) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb).

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**traillii**: After Charles Trail, Stewart Islander

**pulchella**: Pretty little thing

## NVS CODE

LEPTSP

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

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>.

## ATTRIBUTION

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

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptinella-traillii-subsp-pulchella/>

