

Leptinella traillii subsp. traillii

COMMON NAME

Traills Button Daisy

SYNONYMS

Cotula traillii Kirk, *C. traillii* subsp. *traillii* (Kirk) D.G.Lloyd

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

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

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

COTTRA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 312

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Stewart and adjacent Islands.

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.



FEATURES

Dioecious, creeping, perennial herb forming a open to loosely mated 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 x 4-10 mm; lamina 10-40 mm, obovate, coriaceous, thick, glandular punctate, dark green, with dark brown pigmentation of all or only the proximal pinnae, sparsely villous; midrib slightly raised on proximal part of ventral surface; pinnae 4-10 pairs, equidistant, not overlapping, cut to rhachis, broadly obovate to suborbicular, width almost equal to length; teeth closely spaced, up to 12 per pinna, confined to distal and outer margins, cut 1/6-1/2 across pinna, narrowly triangular, 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 x 1 mm, brown, somewhat compressed, at first chartaceous becoming smooth at maturity.

SIMILAR TAXA

Leptinella traillii subsp. *pulchella* (Kirk) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb is rather similar but it is endemic to the Southland coastline and has distinctly less leathery, thinner less obviously glandular punctate leaves, and the pinna teeth are much coarser (larger) and widely spaced.

FLOWERING

August - October

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

FRUITING

September to January

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

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

THREATS

Not considered threatened. A narrow range endemic.

ETYMOLOGY

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

traillii: After Charles Trail, Stewart Islander

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally sold by specialist native plant nurseries. Often as *L. dioica* or *L. squalid*.

CULTURAL USE/IMPORTANCE

One of the main contributing species to the so called "Maniototo" bowling green turf (see under *L. maniototo* (Petrie) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb)

ATTRIBUTION

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

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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