

Logania depressa

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Extinct

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Extinct low growing sprawling shrub bearing clustered pairs of glossy small leaves inhabiting somewhere in the Kaimanawa mountains. Twigs fuzzy. Leaves thick, in clusters of pairs, 3-6mm long by 1-3mm wide. Flowers numerous, in clusters of 2-5 at base of leaves. Flowers either male or female.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Prostrate, multibranching, stipulate, dioecious, subshrub, 80-150 mm high. Branches short, slender, rigid, hairy. Stipules minute, hairy, rounded distally. Leaves more or less sessile, usually clustered on short lateral shoots, glabrous, lamina 3-6 x 1-3 mm, coriaceous, elliptic, ovate to narrowly obovate; base cuneate; margin entire; apex obtuse; venation not evident. Inflorescence axillary; a (2-3-)5 flowered, reduced botryum. Flowers unisexual (male flower only known). Calyx 1.1-3 mm; lobes ovate to oblong, 0.8-1 x 0.5-0.7 mm; margin entire, ciliate; apex obtuse to rounded. Corolla white, 2 mm; tube 1 mm, lobes 1 mm, rounded, margins ciliate; outer surface glabrous, inner hairy at mouth. Stamens inserted half way up tube; filaments 0.5 mm, glabrous; anthers 0.5 mm. Gynoecium rudimentary; pistil 1.5-1.7 mm, ovary much reduced, depressed, glabrous; style filiform, glabrous; stigma ellipsoid to clavate. Female flowers, capsules and seeds not known.

SIMILAR TAXA

None.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island (exact location unclear). Colenso collected it from an area "south of the Kaimanawa Mountains and to the west of the Moawhango River". This area was equated by Oliver (1921) to an area "probably east of Waiouru and north of Moawhango Township".

HABITAT

Unclear. The only facts available are that Colenso recorded it just once in an ice-covered hollow within tussock grassland. The tussock would have been *Chionochloa rubra* (Hook.f.) Zotov subsp. *rubra* var. *rubra*. Other suggestions of likely habitats have little if any basis and are best regarded as wishful thinking.

THREATS

Extinct. This species was collected just once on the 22 February 1847 and has never been seen since. Its presumed habitat is now largely modified tussock grassland, some of it covered with a large hydro dam. Most of this area is also heavily infested with *Hieracium pilosella* L.

GENUS

Logania

FAMILY

Loganiaceae

AUTHORITY

Logania depressa Hook.f.

SYNONYMS

None

TAXONOMIC NOTES

This, the only endemic *Logania* to New Zealand, and one of only two species in the genus found outside Australia remains an elusive enigma. It is known only from the single copious gathering at K and two duplicate fragments held at CHR and WELT. Conn (1995) treats this species as having “uncertain status” noting that the sole collection is male, and that without female flowers and fruits the current generic placement cannot be verified. Conn (1995) further suggests that *Logania depressa* may be better placed within *Geniostoma*, though without further and better collections that move cannot confidently be made. *Logania depressa* has been searched for on several occasions but the potential survey area is huge, and much of it now inaccessible or drowned under a hydro lake. While it may yet be rediscovered the possibility of this gets less likely with the passage of time, particularly as much of its probable habitat is now over run by *Hieracium pilosella*.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

February (Male flowers only, female flowers have never been seen)

FRUITING

Fruits have never been seen

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown.

ETYMOLOGY

depressa: From the Latin *depremere* ‘to press down’, meaning to be flattened vertically, often referring to a plant’s habit

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Extinct

2012 | Extinct

2009 | Extinct

2004 | Extinct

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Conn, B.J. 1995: Taxonomic revision of *Logania* section (*Loganiaceae*). *Australian Systematic Botany* 8: 585-665.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (8 November 2009). Description adapted from Conn (1995)).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Logania depressa* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/logania-depressa/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/logania-depressa/>

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27 May 2026