

Montia angustifolia

COMMON NAME

montia

SYNONYMS

Neopaxia lineariifolia Heenan. Previously all the New Zealand *Neopaxia* had been known as *Neopaxia australasica* (Hook.f.) O.Nilsson which is now regarded as an Australian endemic.

FAMILY

Montiaceae

AUTHORITY

Montia angustifolia Heenan

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

MONANG

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.94

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Data Deficient

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Known only from the South Island, east of the main divide from Nelson to Southland.

HABITAT

An inhabitant of the marginal turf communities of lake and tarns.

FEATURES

Herb forming diffuse tufted patches or compact mats up to 40 cm diameter. Leaves at first brown to green-brown, maturing red-brown to orange-red, 30 × 1.8 mm, narrowly elliptic to narrowly lanceolate, almost linear. Petiole indistinct, grading into leaf, apex subacute to obtuse. Flowers 8-12 mm diameter. tepals 4-6 × 2-3.5 mm, broadly elliptic to obovate, white flushed pink in bud and when mature, not overlapping, apex obtuse or shallowly notched. Nectary orange-yellow. Stamens with filaments 2-2.5 mm, about half tepal length, white, curved at tips. Anthers 0.8-1 × 0.6-0.7 mm, cream. Ovary 0.6-0.7 × 0.6-0.7 mm, obovoid, red-brown to red-green. Style 1-1.3 mm, flushed pink. Stigmatic branches 1.2 mm long, vivid pink. Capsule 2-2.2 × 2.2-2.3 mm. Seeds dark brown, 1.2-1.4 × 1.1-1.2 mm, slightly to moderately rugose.



Lake Lyndon (January). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Ahuriri Valley, Canterbury. Photographer: John Barkla

SIMILAR TAXA

A distinct species easily distinguished from other New Zealand *Montia* species by the uniformly narrow almost linear leaves, and by the seed size (0.8-1 mm diameter).

FLOWERING

November - February

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

December to March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown in pots partially submerged in water and kept weed free. Plants can be grown by the division of whole plants and by seed.

THREATS

Described in 1999. This species has very specific habitat requirements and although unlikely to be threatened it has a sporadic distribution. Many of the existing herbarium records are from collections made prior to 1980, and some of the habitats from where these collections came are now heavily modified or invaded by taller growing weed species.

ETYMOLOGY

montia: Named after the Italian botanist, Giuseppe Monti (1682-1760);

angustifolia: From the Latin angustus 'narrow, constricted' and folius 'leaf', meaning narrow-leaved

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 June 2013).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/montia-angustifolia/>