

# Nertera depressa

## COMMON NAMES

nertera, bead plant, fruiting duckweed

## BIOSTATUS

Native

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

## SIMILAR TAXA

Can be distinguished from *Nertera ciliata* by the strong smell of the leaves when they're crushed (smells like *Coprosma foetidissima* does when the leaves are crushed). *Nertera ciliata* has no discernable smell when crushed (P. de Lange, 14 January 2014).

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. North, South, Stewart, Chatham and the Subantarctic Islands. Also in Australia and the south Pacific and South America

## GENUS

*Nertera*

## FAMILY

Rubiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Nertera depressa* Banks et Sol. ex Gaertn.

## SYNONYMS

*Coprosma nertera* F.Muell.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

## ETYMOLOGY

**nertera**: Lowly, low growing

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



Mt Climie, Upper Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.



Butterfly Creek, Eastbourne. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/12/2006, Licence: CC BY.

## NVS CODE

NERDEP

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the [“Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland”](#) Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the [“Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025”](#) Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026