

Utricularia delicatula

COMMON NAME

Bladderwort

FAMILY

Lentibulariaceae

AUTHORITY

Utricularia delicatula Cheeseman

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Dicotyledonous Herbs other than Composites

NVS CODE

UTRDEL

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Relict

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Relict | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

2004 | Gradual Decline

DISTRIBUTION

Northern half of North Island (very rare); Chatham Island

HABITAT

Coastal to lowland restiad-dominated bogs, in open ground, especially bare, freshly exposed peat, but also found threaded through liverworts and Sphagnum moss. On Chatham Island, it has been found growing on peaty soil on the margins of streams and in similar peaty turf with *Oreomyrrhis* on rock platforms exposed to salt spray and on occasion wave wash.

FEATURES

Tiny leaves (4–6 mm long); flowers are helmet-like, usually 2–3 together, pale lilac to pale lavender, on erect slender stalks 2–3 cm tall; capsules dry, ovoid and filled with tiny seeds. Flowers occur from November to February and the globular fruit are persistent from autumn into winter.

SIMILAR TAXA

In New Zealand this species has no obvious close relatives. The rather small somewhat delicate, inflated pale white to lavender flowers (sometimes with a rather faint yellow eye) are especially distinctive. The typically linear leaves are very small, narrow and usually bright green, the traps are also very small (0.6 x 0.4 mm) and can be very hard to detect in the field. Outside New Zealand it has been confused with Australian *U. lateriflora*.

FLOWERING

November - February



Utricularia delicatula. Photographer: Kevin Matthews



Karikari Peninsula. Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

FRUITING

Autumn - Winter

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult and should not be removed from the wild.

THREATS

Habitat destruction: bog drainage; intensive farming; invasion by or regeneration of dense taller vegetation.

ETYMOLOGY

utricularia: A small bladder

delicatula: Somewhat delicate

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

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

CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/utricularia-delicatula/>