

# Wurmbea novae-zelandiae

## COMMON NAMES

iphigenia

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Summer-green, inconspicuous bulbous herb. Plants 30-80(-100) mm tall at flowering. Corm 7(-9) x 5(-8) mm, enclosed in persistent papery sheaths. Stem annual, slender, < leaves. Leaves (1-)2(-3), 20-90(-120) x 1-2(-8) mm, linear, deeply channelled or folded, apex terete. Below the flower are 1 or 2 smaller, green or petaloid bract-like leaves. Flower solitary, terminal. Tepals 3-6, 4-5 x 1.5 - 2 mm, oblong-lanceolate, obtuse, similar, white or slightly pink. Stamens 3-6, fused to tepal base. Ovary 2.5 mm diam., subglobose, styles widely divergent, and separating with the valves of the ripe capsules. Capsule 4-6(-10) x 2-3-6 mm, oval, pericarp at first green and fleshy, becoming woody on maturity, splitting into 2-6 wide-spreading valves. Seeds orange-brown, 1 mm diam., globose.

## SIMILAR TAXA

None

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to the North and South Island. In the North Island possibly extinct, having been reported twice from the Maungaharuru Range. In the South Island it only occurs east of the main divide from Canterbury to Southland.

## HABITAT

Lowland to subalpine swamps, tarn and lake margins, damp seepages within tussock grasslands, and deflation hollows in alluvial outwash gravels.

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, RR

## THREATS

Threatened by wetland modification, drainage, and exotic weeds. Also vulnerable to browse by introduced mammals (hares) and possibly Canada geese.

## DETAILED TAXONOMY

### FAMILY

Colchicaceae

### AUTHORITY

Wurmbea novae-zelandiae (Hook.f. ex Kirk) Likhak, Survesw. et S.R.Yadav

### SYNONYMS

Anguillaria novae-zelandiae Hook.f., Iphigenia novae-zelandiae (Hook.f.) Baker



Mackenzie Basin. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## ECOLOGY

### FLOWERING

November - December

### FRUITING

(Dec) January - February

### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult and should not be removed from the wild.

### WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

## OTHER INFORMATION

### EXTRA INFORMATION

One of New Zealand's few indigenous bulb-bearing plants.

### ETYMOLOGY

**wurmbea:** The genus *Wurmbea* is named after Christoph Carl Friedrich von Wurmbe (1742 - 1781), a German botanist who emigrated to Jakarta.

**novae-zelandiae:** Of New Zealand

### NVS CODE

WURNOV

### CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 20

### PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DP, RR

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DP, RR

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, RR

2004 | Gradual Decline

## REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

### REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: *Threatened Plants of New Zealand*. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: *Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II*. Wellington, Government Printer.

### ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (1 August 2003). Description based on Moore & Edgar (1970) - see also de Lange et al. (2010).

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### **NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION**

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/wurmbea-novae-zelandiae/> (Date website was queried)

### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/wurmbea-novae-zelandiae/>

### **PDF DATE**

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