

Utricularia delicatula

COMMON NAMES

bladderwort

BIOSTATUS

Native

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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*.

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.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

THREATS

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

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Lentibulariaceae

AUTHORITY

Utricularia delicatula Cheeseman

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



Utricularia delicatula. Photographer: Kevin Matthews, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Northland. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 24/12/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

November - February

FRUITING

Autumn - Winter

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult and should not be removed from the wild.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

OTHER INFORMATION

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ETYMOLOGY

utricularia: A small bladder

delicatula: Somewhat delicate

NVS CODE

UTRDEL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Relict | Qualifiers: DP, PD

2012 | At Risk – Relict

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

2004 | Gradual Decline

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

ATTRIBUTION

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

31 October 2024