

# 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

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

UTRDEL

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Relict

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.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

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

## 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*.



Karikari Peninsula. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.



Tuku, Chatham (Rekohu) Island. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## FLOWERING

November - February

## 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)

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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## MORE INFORMATION

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