

Leptinella pectinata subsp. willcoxii

SYNONYMS

Cotula willcoxii Cheeseman, *Cotula pectinata* subsp. *willcoxii* (Cheeseman) D.G.Lloyd, *Cotula monticola* G.Simpson

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Leptinella pectinata subsp. *willcoxii* (Cheeseman) D.G.Lloyd et C.J.Webb

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

LEPWIL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 104

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, from Mt Cook south and west to northern Fiordland.

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine (900-2400 m a.s.l.) usually near streams in seepages, on damp rock faces, bare rock and moist slopes nearly devoid of other vegetation.



Hooker valley, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mt Aspiring National Park. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Monoecious, creeping, glabrous, somewhat lax perennial herb forming diffuse irregular patches. Rhizomes at or near soil surface, stout, up to 2 mm diameter, somewhat wiry, dark, sparsely villous, glabrate to glabrescent; branches usually solitary at flowering nodes. Leaves usually scattered along rhizomes. Short shoots absent. Roots extensive, wiry, much branched, up to 1 mm diameter. Leaves 1-pinnatifid, occasionally simple, 7-10 x 2-10 mm; blade up to 10 mm, broadly elliptic, firmly coriaceous, dark or yellow green, glabrous, midrib not raised on ventral surface; pinnae 1-5 pairs, distant, cut to rachis, flat oblong to obovate, teeth usually absent, occasionally with 1-2 per pinna, these mostly on proximal margin, cut 1/2 across pinna, triangular, obtuse. Peduncles very much > leaves, 10-100 mm, ebracteate or rarely with 1 simply bract, glabrous to sparsely villous. Capitula 4-8 mm diameter; involucre subcampanulate; involucral bracts 12-24, subequally 2- or more seriate, oblong, dark green to purple green, with 1-3 dark veins, with wide brown scarious margins, glabrous to sparsely villous; pistillate flowers 12-200, 2.75 mm long, straight, yellow to yellow-red, often with 1-2 dark stripes along corolla and ovary; corolla much > than wide, dentition equal; staminate florets more numerous than pistillate. Cypsela 2.3 x 1 mm, golden-brown, compressed, biconvex, slightly to deeply wrinkled.

SIMILAR TAXA

L. pectinata subsp. *willcoxii* differs from *L. pectinata* (Hook.f.) D.G.Lloyd et C.J.Webb subsp. *pectinata* by its glabrous rather than glabrate to sparsely hairy rhizomes and leaves, by its broader leaves, bearing usually 5 or less pinnae (cf 5 or more in subsp. *pectinata*), and by the pinna which are broadly oblong to obovate (cf. linear to narrowly obovate). From subsp. *villosa* (G.Simpson) D.G.Lloyd et C.J.Webb subsp. *willcoxii* is easily distinguished by its glabrous rather than usually densely grey-white hairy rhizomes and leaves, and by its broadly elliptic to obovate leaves bearing 5 or less (cf. 5 or more) broadly oblong to obovate rather than linear to narrowly obovate pinna.

FLOWERING

November - February

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Yellow

FRUITING

December - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Probably easily grown.

ETYMOLOGY

leptinella: From the Greek word leptos (meaning slender, thin or delicate), referring to the ovary

pectinata: Comb-bearing

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 31 August 2006. Description from Lloyd (1972) - as *Cotula pectinata* subsp. *willcoxii*.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Lloyd, D.G. 1972: A revision of the New Zealand, Subantarctic, and South American species of *Cotula*, section *Leptinella*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 10: 277-372.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptinella-pectinata-subsp-willcoxii/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptinella-pectinata-subsp-willcoxii/>

PDF DATE

17 September 2024