

Leptinella pyrethrifolia var. pyrethrifolia

COMMON NAME

button daisy

SYNONYMS

Cotula pyrethrifolia Hook.f., *C. pyrethrifolia* Hook.f. var. *pyrethrifolia*

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Leptinella pyrethrifolia (Hook.f.) D.G.Lloyd et C.J.Webb var. *pyrethrifolia*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

LEPPVP

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 156, 208

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island from Ruahine Ranges south. South Island from Marlborough and Nelson to southern Canterbury.

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine (600-2000 m a.s.l.), usually along stream and river banks, at the base of talus and scree slopes, or on rocky ridges, or near and growing on rock outcrops.



Mt Hutt, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Cultivated plant. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Gynodioecious creeping perennial herb forming circular patches up to 1 m wide. Rhizomes on soil surface or intertwined and lying on older, decaying rhizomes, stout, somewhat fleshy 1-3 mm diameter, dark green to purple-red, sparsely pilose hairy, becoming woody and glabrous with age; branches usually clustered with up to 6 radiating from around a flowering node; leaves clustered at apex, sometimes with older leaves up to 30 mm apart. Roots extensive, stout, up to 200 x 1 mm. Leaves 1-pinnatifid, 5-40 x 3-10 mm; blade 4-15 mm long, elliptic, obovate to broadly obovate coriaceous, fleshy, dark green, glabrous midrib not raised on ventral surface; pinnae 1-4 pairs up to 5 mm long, distant, obovate, obtuse; teeth 0(-1) on either side of larger pinnae, cut 1/3-1/2 across pinna, triangular. peduncles longer than leaves, 20-120 mm, dark green to purple-green, with 1-8 evenly spaced, small linear bracts, rarely ebracteate, sparsely pilose. Capitula fragrant, pistillate, staminate or bisexual (on different plants). Pistillate capitula 5-15 mm diameter, surface flat or slightly convex; involucre hemispherical; involucral bracts 20-110, subequally 2- or more seriate, fleshy, oblong, dark green, with a single dark vein evident, glabrous, with wide brown scarious margins; florets 50-200, 2.75-4 mm long, straight, white, cream or lemon-yellow; corolla 2-4 times as long as wide, dentition equal. Staminate capitula 5-18 mm diameter, surface convex; involucre spreading or flat; involucral bracts 10-60; florets 40-300, occasionally with a dark stripe down the broader part of the corolla. Bisexual capitula intermediate, numbers of pistillate and staminate florets varying from plant to plant. Cypselas 2.3 x 1 mm, golden-brown, compressed, biconvex, slightly wrinkled.

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *L. pectinata* (Hook.f.) D.G.Lloyd et C.J.Webb with which it is perhaps most similar to subsp. *willcoxii* (Cheeseman) D.G.Lloyd et C.J.Webb from which it differs by its ecology, overall larger stature, broader, wider leaves, and usually white to cream (sometimes lemon-yellow) capitula. *L. pyrethrifolia* var. *pyrethrifolia* is cytologically distinct having $2n = 156, 208$ rather than $2n = 52, 104$ found in *L. pectinata*. *Leptinella pyrethrifolia* var. *linearifolia* (Cheeseman) D.G.Lloyd et C.J.Webb is easily distinguished from var. *pyrethrifolia*, it has linear leaves (rarely with an apical lobing), dark brown seeds, and is confined to ultramafic substrates in the Red Hills, upper Wairau Valley.

FLOWERING

November - February

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, White

FRUITING

December - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from rooted pieces, like full sun with a damp root run. Excellent in a pot. The large white, cream or pale yellow, sweetly scented capitula are very attractive.

ETYMOLOGY

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

pyrethrifolia: Pyrethrum-leaved

ATTRIBUTION

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

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

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Leptinella pyrethrifolia* var. *pyrethrifolia* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptinella-pyrethrifolia-var-pyrethrifolia/>