

Bulbinella gibbsii var. gibbsii

COMMON NAME

Gibbs's Māori onion, Gibbs's lily, Gibbs's onion

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asphodelaceae

AUTHORITY

Bulbinella gibbsii Cockayne var. *gibbsii*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

NVS CODE

BULGVG

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 14

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Stewart Island/Rakiura.

HABITAT

Coastal to alpine (mainly alpine) in damp ground, in cushion bogs and seepages, sometimes fringing ponds and small ephemeral pools.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).



Mt Rakeahua, Rakiura National Park, 680 m asl.
Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken:
02/01/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mount Rakeahua, Rakiura National Park, 680 m
asl. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken:
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Subdioecious, diminutive, summer green, fleshy, lily up to 300 mm tall. **Leaves** up to 30 mm wide, strap-like, reddish green to dark green, fleshy. **Peduncle** mostly shorter than raceme. **Raceme** mostly conical (rarely cylindrical), the axis visible between flowers. **Pedicels** 10–20 mm long, swollen below flower, elongating slightly after anthesis. **Bracts** long-acuminate, notably longer than pedicel in flowering and fruiting material. **Flowers** 10–14 mm diameter, dark yellow, numerous, densely crowded; tepals patent, becoming erect and hardening as fruit matures. **Stamens** 6, < tepals; anthers mostly well filled with pollen. **Ovary** not stipitate. **Capsules** broad-ovoid. **Seeds** dark and narrowly winged.

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Bulbinella rossii* (Hook.f.) Cheeseman which is a much more robust species (up to 1 m tall) endemic to the Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku. *Bulbinella rossii* has consistently cylindrical racemes. The axis is very stout and more or less obscured by the densely crowded, distinctly dioecious flowers. The stigma is prominently capitate. *Bulbinella gibbsii* var. *balanifera* L.B.Moore is a larger plant than var. *gibbsii* with longer peduncles and pedicels. The pedicels greatly exceed the subtending bracts. The ovary and capsules are barrel-shaped rather than broadly ovoid, with bases that only gradually narrow and which are scarcely stipitate. *Bulbinella gibbsii* var. *balanifera* is found in the North Island and South Island but not on Stewart Island/Rakiura.

FLOWERING

January–February

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

February–March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild. Has been cultivated with limited success in the more southerly parts of the country.

THREATS

No apparent threats. Listed because it occupies a small geographic area.

ETYMOLOGY

bulbinella: Little bulb

gibbsii: Named in honor of Frederick G Gibbs (1866–1953)

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Moore and Edgar (1970).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Moore LB, Edgar E. 1970. Flora of New Zealand, Volume II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones except Gramineae. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 354 p.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/bulbinella-gibbsii-var-gibbsii/>