

Bulbinella talbotii

COMMON NAME

Talbot's onion, Goulard Downs onion

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asphodelaceae

AUTHORITY

Bulbinella talbotii L.B.Moore

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

NVS CODE

BULTAL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 14

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, OL

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, north-west Nelson, Goulard Downs

HABITAT

Montane in boggy ground and fringing pools of water within open shrubland.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout, fleshy, bisexual plant, scarcely rising above ground; leaves widely spreading, up to 100-400 mm. Leaves 3-7 mm wide, more or less horizontally spreading. Peduncle very short, scarcely evident from with leaf-sheaths, rarely exceeding raceme-length. Raceme at flowering 10-25 × 15 mm, elongating little at fruit; fruit densely crowded; bracts about equal in length to pedicels, with broad, pale, membranous, sheathing at base, covering young buds but in fruit almost hidden; pedicels short, widely spreading, scarcely visible. Flowers deep yellow to sulphur yellow except for the abaxial nerve of each tepal green; perianth 7-11 mm diameter, shrivelled and tangled at base of ripe capsules. Stamens 6, widely spreading. Ovary and capsule stipitate, the capsule globose above the gynophore, 3.5-6.5 mm diameter. Seeds 3.5 mm long, brown, smooth, rounded without wings



Goulard Downs, November. Photographer: Simon Walls, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Goulard Downs, Kahurangi National Park. Photographer: Simon Walls, Date taken: 01/11/2004, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from all but *B. modesta* L.B.Moore by its narrow leaves (up to 10 mm wide), shortly pedunculate racemes which are virtually hidden amongst the foliage, and by the globose capsules, and seeds which are a little longer than wide, brown and without wings. From *B. modesta* it differs by the peduncles which are mostly hidden by the leaf sheaths, with the visible portion < raceme, and by the flowers which are densely crowded rather than openly and rather laxly arranged.

FLOWERING

December - January

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

December - February

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

Not Threatened. However listed because it is a geographically restricted, narrow-range endemic. It is not very well known and it may be threatened to some extent by pigs and other browsing animals.

ETYMOLOGY

bulbinella: Little bulb

talbotii: Named for Harry Talbot (1898-1982), a plant collector

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Moore and Edgar (1970)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington. 354pp.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora.

Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

MORE INFORMATION

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