

# Leptinella atrata subsp. luteola

## COMMON NAME

yellow scree button daisy

## SYNONYMS

*Cotula atrata* subsp. *luteola* D.G.Lloyd

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Leptinella atrata* subsp. *luteola* (D.G.Lloyd) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 52

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island from Eastern Marlborough to North Canterbury

## HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine (> 1000 m a.s.l.) in open, mobile, sparsely vegetated scree.



Black Birch Range. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 26/01/2006, Licence: CC BY-NC.



*Leptinella atrata* subsp. *luteola* amongst *Gentianella tenuifolia*; Black Birch Range. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 26/01/2006, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Fleshy, monoecious, perennial herb producing 1 or more summer green leaf tufts amongst mobile scree. Rhizomes ascending, at or close to rock surface when young, becoming deeply buried with age, up to 10 mm long, thick, very fleshy, pale or pinkish-red, sparsely short-hairy, glabrate; branches often in clusters of up to 4 diverging from a flowering node and the nodes immediately behind, most of these dying in the first season, leaves usually crowded around rhizome apex, sometimes up to 25 mm apart. Roots numerous, fleshy, very long, extensively branching, thick up to 2 mm diameter. Leaves 2-pinnatifid, 20-80 x 5-13 mm; blade 15-60 mm long, obovate, coriaceous and fleshy, grey-green tinged with red, especially on the primary and secondary axes, sparsely pilose hairy, midrib not raised on ventral surface; pinnae 5-10 pairs, cut to rachis, distal ones close-set, broadly elliptic and divided, reducing to distant oblong simple proximal pinnae; secondary pinnae 0-5 per pinna, equally on distal and proximal sides, cut to midrib of pinna, triangular to oblong flat or scarcely upturned, with rounded apices, flat or upturned, occasionally with 1-2 small lobes on either side. Peduncles scarcely longer than leaves, 30-120 mm, stout, fleshy, pilose hairy with 4-10 evenly spaced bracts; simple, oblong or with 1-3 lobes on either side. Capitula 5-13 mm diameter, surface paraboloid (steeply convex); involucre flat; involucral bracts unequally 2-3-seriate, overtopped by mature florets, grey-green tinged pink or red, more or less pilose hairy, outer bracts exceeding florets, thick, simple, oblong, margin entire, gradually changing to thinner, simple obovate inner involucral bracts whose margins are finely scarious, receptacle conical; pistillate florets 100-240 in several rows, 3.25-3.75 mm long, straight, yellow; corolla 5 times as long as wide, teeth reddish brown conspicuous, equal and diverging; staminate florets equal in number. Stigmas clearly exerted, not retracting after anthesis. Cypselas 1.8-2.8 x 0.8-1 mm, slightly compressed, pale brown or dark brown, deeply wrinkled when mature

## SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from *L. atrata* (Hook.f.) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb subsp. *atrata* by the yellow rather than dark red almost black flowers, leaves whose distal pinnae are not overlapping and whose secondary pinnae are flat rather than upturned. Differs from *L. dendyi* (Cockayne) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb by the smaller capitula (up to 12 cf 20 mm), dark red to almost black rather than yellow with red-tipped florets, paraboloid rather than flat receptacle, and monoecious rather than gynodioecious flowers.

## FLOWERING

November - January

## FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Yellow

## FRUITING

January - April

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - should not be removed from the wild.

## THREATS

Apparently a very localised, narrow-range endemic known from only a few locations. No evidence of decline has been reported.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**atrata**: From the Greek ater 'black'

**luteola**: From the Latin luteo 'yellow', meaning 'pale yellow'

## 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 atrata* subsp. *luteola*

## 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 atrata* subsp. *luteola* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

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

### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptinella-atrata-subsp-luteola/>