

Leptinella dendyi

COMMON NAME

Dendy's scree button daisy

SYNONYMS

Cotula dendyi Cockayne

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Leptinella dendyi (Cockayne) 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

LEPDEN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 52

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, east of the main divide from Eastern Nelson and Marlborough south to Canterbury.

HABITAT

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



Island saddle, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Misery Tarn, Branch River. Photographer: Simon Moore, Licence: CC BY-SA.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Fleshy, gynodioecious, 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 1.5 mm diameter. Leaves 2-pinnatifid, 20-50 x 3-80 mm; blade 10-30 mm long, narrowly 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 8-12 pairs, cut to rachis, proximal pinnae distant, distal ones overlapping, broadly elliptic and divided, reducing to distant oblong simple proximal pinnae; secondary pinnae 9 per pinna, equally on distal and proximal sides, cut to midrib of pinna, with rounded apices, upturned at an angle to the blade, occasionally with a linear lobe on one or both sides. Peduncles longer than leaves, 30-80 mm, stout, fleshy, pilose hairy with 6-15 evenly spaced bracts; lowermost bracts scarcely smaller than leaves, reducing evenly to simple, oblong or 1-pinnatifid uppermost bracts. Capitula either female, male or perfect in varying proportions within populations. Pistillate capitula up to 20 mm diameter, surface flat; involucre spreading and upturned at margins; involucral bracts numerous, unequally 2-, to multiseriate, grey-green tinged red, more or less pilose hairy, outer bracts exceeding florets, thick, simple and oblong with 1-8 oblong lobes on both sides (scarious margins absent), gradually changing to thinner, simple, obovate inner involucral bracts with finely scarious margins; receptacle more or less flat; florets 200-900 in many rows, 3.25-4.25 mm long, straight, pale yellow with brown corolla teeth, the whole corolla turning brown after anthesis; corolla 4 times as long as wide, teeth conspicuous, equal and diverging; staminate florets < 10 mm diameter; surface convex, involucre hemispherical; florets 120-450. Cypselae 2.9 x 0.7 mm, slightly compressed, golden brown, deeply wrinkled when mature

SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from *L. atrata* (Hook.f.) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb subsp. *atrata* and subsp. *luteola* (D.G.Lloyd) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb by large capitula (20 cf 12-13 mm respectively), flat receptacle, and gynodioecious rather than monoecious flowers. The florets of *L. atrata* subsp. *luteola* are yellow with red tips, while those of *L. dendyi* are yellow with red-brown tips.

FLOWERING

November - January

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Yellow

FRUITING

January - April

LIFE CYCLE

Papery cypselae are dispersed by wind and possibly attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - should not be removed from the wild

ETYMOLOGY

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

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 dendyi*.

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.

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* 11: 285-309.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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