

Leptinella minor

COMMON NAME

Banks Peninsula button daisy

SYNONYMS

Cotula haastii Kirk, *Cotula minor* (Hook.f.) Hook.f.

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Leptinella minor Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

LEPMIN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 52$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

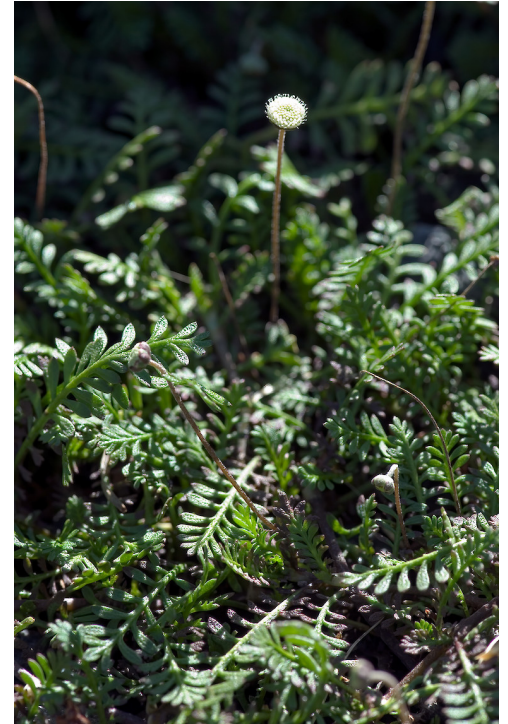
2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Banks Peninsula - however historic herbarium specimens show it was once on the Canterbury Plains

HABITAT

Sea level to 600 m a.s.l., on rock outcrops and associated open, rubbly skeletal soils. Usually found in sites within little surrounding vegetation. Sometimes in open grassland.



In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 15/03/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Banks Peninsula. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Monoecious, creeping perennial herb forming open or diffuse patches. Rhizomes at soil surface, slender to stout 0.5-2 mm diameter; early season branches clustered, with up to 5 radiating from around a flowering node; branches produced later in season usually single at flowering nodes. Leaves 3-10, usually clustered but in vigorous growth spaced up to 20 mm apart. Short shoots absent or with 1-few small leaves. roots 0.5-1 mm diameter, thick, coriaceous. Leaves 1-pinnatifid, 10-50 x 3-10 mm; blade 3-40 mm, dull green usually with much brown pigment on proximal pinnae, obovate, coriaceous, more or less glabrous; pinnae 5-12 pairs, not overlapping, cut to rachis, obovate, teeth 0-7 per pinna, usually restricted to proximal pinnae, on distal margins, cut 1/2-2/3 across pinna, oblong, obtuse and minutely mucronate. Peduncles borne on rhizomes, equal or longer than leaves, slender, 20-50 mm long, ebracteate or with 1 bract, pilose hairy. Capitula 4-6 mm diameter; surface convex, involucre outspread; involucral bracts 15-20, equally biseriata, suborbicular, pilose hairy, with a wide brown scarious margin; pistillate florets 70-130, 2- or more seriate, 1.75 mm long, straight, white; corolla longer than wide, teeth equal; staminate florets equal in number. Cypselae 1 x 0.5 mm, pale brown when mature, slightly compressed, transversely wrinkled.

SIMILAR TAXA

Leptinella minor is very closely allied to *L. filiformis* (Hook.f.) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb and *L. nana* (D.G.Lloyd) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb, the three in fact forming a distinct clade using nrDNA ITS sequences. From *L. nana*, *L. minor* is readily distinguished by its taller stature, dull green leaves and white capitula. It is however, extremely close to *L. filiformis*, from which it differs by its larger more robust habit, thicker rhizomes (2 cf. < 1 mm diameter), larger and longer leaves (10-50 cf 5-20 mm long), bearing more numerous teeth (especially on the proximal pinnae) and larger capitula (4-6 cf 2-3 mm diameter).

FLOWERING

September - July

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

September - August

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from the division of established plants and from fresh seed. This is an attractive, long flowering species which makes an excellent rock garden plant. It flourishes best in a sunny situation when planted in a free draining, fertile soil. Dislikes humidity.

THREATS

A naturally uncommon, range restricted species which can be locally abundant on parts of Banks Peninsula. It is possible that some populations have declined due to the spread of introduced weeds (especially grasses) but there is no documentation to demonstrate this.

ETYMOLOGY

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

minor: Smaller

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

ATTRIBUTION

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

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

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Leptinella minor* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptinella-minor/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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