

Libertia edgariae

COMMON NAME

Edgar's iris, Edgar's mikoikoi

SYNONYMS

Specimens were previously determined as stoloniferous forms of *L. grandiflora*.

FAMILY

Iridaceae

AUTHORITY

Libertia edgariae Blanchon, B.G.Murray et Braggins

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

NVS CODE

LIBEDG

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 114

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

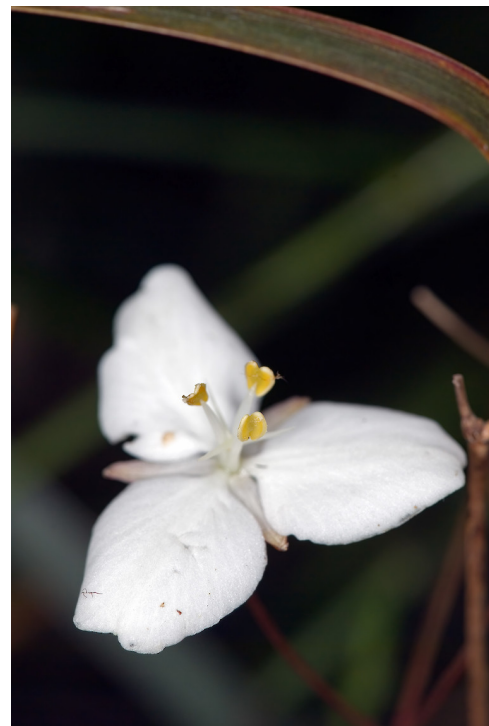
Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Rimutaka Ranges, Eastbourne Hills extending to south Wellington Coast, also western Wairarapa).

HABITAT

Found principally in coastal scrub, on hillsides and old marine terraces in manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) scrub.



Exposed stolon. Eastbourne. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/12/2006, Licence: CC BY.



Broad inner tepals partly overlapping narrower outer tepals. Eastbourne. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/12/2006, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants consisting of leafy fans crowded or emerging at intervals from far-spreading horizontal stolons; stolons c. 2 mm diameter, pale yellow in colour. **Leaves** 120–620 × 1–9 mm, the two surfaces similar; green to pale yellow; nerves many, the median ones sometimes crowded to form a pale midrib; margins only scabrid at tip of leaf; leaf in transverse section convex lens shaped, two rows of vascular bundles present centrally, marginal vascular bundles present, sclerenchyma present on inside of leaf sheath. **Peduncles** ½ length of total inflorescence, inflorescences of similar length to leaves. **Panicle** broad, much and widely branched, lower bracts 15–120 mm long, lanceolate, green, upper bracts shorter, brown and membranous, occurring singly, 1–4 flowers per branch. **Pedicels** slender, glabrous, 10–35 mm long. **Perianth** in flower bud often pigmented externally, often larger than ovary. **Flowers** 10–20 mm diameter; tepals all white internally, widely patent; outer tepals < ½ the length of the inner, narrower, elliptical, boat-shaped, with reduced apiculus; inner tepals orbicular, unguiculate, often overlapping outer, cleft present at tip. **Staminal filaments** shortly connate; anthers 2–3 mm long, bright yellow. **Ovary** small compared with perianth bud at anthesis; style branches not winged, pointing upwards. **Capsule** 5–9 mm long, 3–6 mm diameter, barrel-shaped, green, turning black on maturity, dehiscent fully or partially from shorter or longer loculicidal splitting, the longer valves often recurved. **Seeds** c. 1.0 × 1.5 mm, rounded or sometimes angular, bright tangerine orange.

SIMILAR TAXA

This species could be confused with *Libertia grandiflora* and *L. mooreae* but differs mainly by its smaller size. It also has falcate leaves, elongated rhizomes, and barrel-shaped capsules, unlike *L. grandiflora* and *L. mooreae*. It also differs from *L. peregrinans* by its taller inflorescences and petal shape.

FLOWERING

September–November

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

December–May

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds are possibly dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from rooted pieces and fresh seed—an attractive plant that deserves to be more widely grown. Because it is highly variable, some selection of forms from the wild for cultivation would be worthwhile.

THREATS

A naturally uncommon, range restricted and usually sparsely distributed species under no obvious threat. The majority of this species range occurs within protected land.

ETYMOLOGY

libertia: Named after Marie-Anne Libert, (1782-1865) born & died in Malmedy, province of Liège, Belgium; botanist and mycologist

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Blanchon et al. (2002).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Blanchon DJ, Murray BG, Braggins JE. 2002. A taxonomic revision of *Libertia* (Iridaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 40(3): 437–456. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2002.9512805>.
- Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/libertia-edgariae/>