

Montia drucei

SYNONYMS

Neopaxia drucei Heenan; Previously all the New Zealand *Neopaxia* had been known as *Neopaxia australasica* (Hook.f.) O.Nilsson which is now regarded as an Australian endemic

FAMILY

Montiaceae

AUTHORITY

Montia drucei (Heenan) Heenan

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: RR, Sp, St

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: RR, St

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: St

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, North West Nelson, Kahurangi National Park, Horseshoe Basin and sinkholes near Mt Arthur.

HABITAT

Alpine. A species of damp sites within marble karstfield. It seems to prefer to grow on shallow, skeletal soils and on rock outcrops where competition from taller plants is minimal. Specimens have been seen growing on the margins of sink holes in places that are periodically flooded, tarns, at the toe slope of scree and adjacent herbfield.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Diminutive stoloniferous herb of damp ground within marble karstfield, forming loose to compact turf up to 50 mm diam. Leaves 15 x 1 mm, lamina 1-3 mm, elliptic to rhomboid; petiole distinct; leaf surfaces initially green fading to yellow with age, glossy, upper surface convex, lower concave; apex subacute; base attenuate to cuneate. Flowers 4.8-6.2 mm diam. Tepals 2-3.6 x 1.5-2.5 mm, obovate, white, overlapping; apex subacute, not notched; claw indistinct. Nectary green. Filaments 1.5-2.5 mm, greater than half tepal length. Anthers 0.3-0.4 x 0.2 mm, pink to pink-red. Ovary 0.6-0.8 x 0.8-0.9 mm, obovoid, green. Style 0.9-1.2 mm; somewhat bulbous at base, white with base flushed green. Stigmatic branches 0.9-1 mm, white, straight prior to spreading. Capsule 1.5-2 x 1-1.5 mm. Seeds 1-1.5 x 0.9-1.2 mm, black, moderately to strongly rugose.

SIMILAR TAXA

None known

FLOWERING

December - February



Plants of *Montia* (*Neopaxia*) *drucei*.
Photographer: Cathy Jones, Licence: CC BY.



Close up of *Montia* (*Neopaxia*) *drucei*.
Photographer: Cathy Jones, Licence: CC BY.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

FRUITING

January - March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from the division of whole plants but difficult to maintain in cultivation for any length of time.

THREATS

Known from one area near Mt Arthur (Kahurangi National Park). Its habitat preferences appear to be very specific, and as such this species is naturally very uncommon. It is because of its highly restricted range and area of occupancy that this species receives such a high risk assessment. At this stage no other threats to this species have been recognised.

ETYMOLOGY

montia: Named after the Italian botanist, Giuseppe Monti (1682-1760);

drucei: Named after Anthony (Tony) Peter Druce, one of New Zealand's most respected field botanist (1920-1999).

NEW ZEALAND BOTANICAL HISTORY

For a brief biography for this plant is named, see this article in [Te Ara - The Encyclopedia of New Zealand](#).

Hundreds of Tony's famed plant lists can be found [here](#) and back-issues of regional Botanical Society Journals which he contributed can be accessed [here](#).

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 July 2009. Description by P.B. Heenan and published in de Lange et al. (2010) - but see also Heenan (1999, 2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.

Heenan, P. B. 1999: A taxonomic revision of *Neopaxia* Ö.Nilss. (Portulacaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 37: 213-234

Heenan, P.B. 2007: New combinations in *Montia* (Portulacaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 45: 437-439

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/montia-drucei/>