

# Montia erythrophylla

## SYNONYMS

*Neopaxia erythrophylla* 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 erythrophylla* (Heenan) Heenan

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = c.85$

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Sparse

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South island, easterly along the main divide from Marlborough to Canterbury

## HABITAT

A scree species where it usually grows in fine-grained, more stable, moist screes, and in gravel, debris slopes and on or near rock outcrops.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Herb up to 200 mm diameter, forming loose to compact mats. Leaves up to 35 x 3.2 mm, spatulate; lamina narrowly elliptic to elliptic; both leaf surfaces red-brown to red, dull; undersides with flat surfaces or sometimes slightly concave; upper surface flat or slightly convex; apex obtuse; base attenuate; petiole often distinct but grading into lamina base; old leaves orange to orange-yellow. Involucral leaves 3.0–3.5 x 3.2–3.5 mm, red-brown; lateral fold absent or indistinct; apex obtuse. Flower 9.5–14 mm diameter. Tepals 4.8–7.9 x 2.3–4.6 mm, broadly elliptic to obovate, white in bud and at maturity – usually flushed pink, not overlapping; apex obtuse, rarely notched; claw weakly differentiated. Nectary green. Filaments 2.8–3.8 mm long, slightly > or more or less equal 1/2 tepal length, white. Anthers 0.7–0.8 x 0.3–0.4 mm, pink to pink-red. Ovary 0.9–1.2 x 0.8–1 mm, obovoid, red-green to brown-green; sutures not prominent. Style 2.4–3.1 mm long; white with base flushed green. Stigmatic branches 1.2–1.6 mm long, white, 2.1 mm. Seeds 1.4–1.7 x 1.2–1.6 mm, slightly to moderately rugose, dark brown, red-brown to black.



Mt Hutt (January). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Dry Stream, Canterbury. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 29/11/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC.

### SIMILAR TAXA

A well marked species whose consistently dull reddish spatulate, flat leaves up to 3.2 mm wide, with distinct petioles, and pink to pink-red anthers readily distinguish this species for the other indigenous members of the genus. It is perhaps closest to *N. racemosa* (Buchanan) Heenan an ultramafic endemic which differs by its glossy, linear leaves up to 1.8 mm wide, coloured brown to green-brown, with indistinct petioles and cream anthers.

### FLOWERING

November-January

### FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

### FRUITING

December-March

### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - should not be removed from the wild

### THREATS

Not threatened but quite uncommon though widely and naturally sparsely distributed.

### ETYMOLOGY

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

### WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

### ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

### NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

### MORE INFORMATION

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