

# Oxalis thompsoniae

## COMMON NAME

Thompson's oxalis

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Oxalidaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Oxalis thompsoniae* B.J.Conn et P.G.Richards

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 24

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous: Kermadec (Raoul, Macauley), North, South and Chatham (Rekohu only) Islands. Also Australia and New Guinea.

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane, in grassland, coastal shrub, grey scrub, open sites in forest, on cliff faces and associated rubble slopes. Occasionally in lawns and waste ground in urban situations.



Capsule showing retrorse pubescence and long patent hairs. Wanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 24/02/2008, Licence: CC BY-NC.



leaf, upper surface, Wanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 10/02/2014, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Herb with prostrate or decumbent stems to 450 mm, glabrescent to moderately antrorse-hairy, sometimes with patent septate hairs present; tap root poorly developed; bulbils absent. Leaves cauline, 3-foliolate; leaflets subsessile, cuneate-obovate, 3-16 x 5-20 mm, bilobed, glaucous, glabrous to pubescent above, often densely hairy below, margins ciliate, sinus to 1/3 leaflet length, lobes oblong to slightly obovate, apices rounded, 3-10 mm apart; petioles 40-900 mm long, with simple antrorse hairs; stipules conspicuous, 1-3 mm long, apex rounded, ciliate. Inflorescences axillary 1-6-flowered; peduncles mostly shorter than leaves, sparsely antrorse-hairy; pedicels deflexed in fruit. Sepals oblong, 2-4 mm long, often ciliate; petals 4-12 mm long, yellow. Capsule cylindrical, 5-16 mm long, erect, densely covered in retrorse-hairs interspersed with sparse, longer, patent septate hairs; seeds very compressed, smooth or shallowly ribbed.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from *Oxalis corniculata* by the copious antrorse rather than retrorse stem and petiole hairs, smaller rounded, obtuse tipped, rather than very large, bluntly truncate stipules, which are evenly covered in hairs with the margins distinctly hairier, rather than glabrescent to evenly hairy. The leaves are copiously but finely hairy on both surfaces rather than hairy above glabrous beneath and usually glaucescent, rather than green, dark green, red-green or purple. The seeds of *O. corniculata* are distinctly ribbed, those of *O. thompsoniae* are not.

## FLOWERING

September - June

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## FRUITING

July - June

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Like many *Oxalis* species, inclined to be weedy in cultivation. This species is locally a problem in some parts of New Zealand but is rarely as weedy as the closely allied *O. corniculata*.

## ETYMOLOGY

**oxalis:** From the Greek word oxus meaning acid or sharp

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (10 August 2009). Description from herbarium specimens and live plants.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/oxalis-thompsoniae/>