

Pachycladon exile

SYNONYMS

Ischnocarpus exilis Heenan, *Pachycladon exilis* (Heenan) Heenan et A.D.Mitch. orth.var.

FAMILY

Brassicaceae

AUTHORITY

Pachycladon exile (Heenan) Heenan et A. Mitch.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 20

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, OL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, OL

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, OL

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (South Canterbury and North Otago. Formerly present in a number of sites along the Waitaki River and at Cape Wanbrow. Now apparently confined to a single site near Awahokomo Creek).

HABITAT

A species apparently favouring dry, exposed limestone rock and associated rendzina soils. It seems to require open ground to thrive and is intolerant of much competition with other plants.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender, grey-green, thread-like perennial herb, up to 100 mm tall. **Basal leaves** 7–20 mm long, simple, initially densely invested with stellate hairs, becoming glabrescent with age; early basal leaves elliptic, entire or with a few blunt serrations, later leaves pinnatifid to pinnatisect, lobed 2–4 times in opposite to subopposite pairs; lamina, 4–9 × 1.5–5 mm. **Stem leaves** 1–4, lower ones similar to basal leaves, upper 3 × 0.5 mm, linear, minutely serrated. **Inflorescences** racemose, 40–100 mm long, glaucescent, 3–10-flowered. **Pedicels** 8–12 × 0.4–0.5 mm, glabrous. **Sepals** 1.8–2.4 × 1–1.1 mm, green with pale margins, ascending, oblong to elliptic, subacute. **Petals** 3–5 × 0.3–1 mm, white, obovate to obovate-spathulate, subacute. **Stamens** 4–6, anthers green to green-brown. **Style** 0.1–0.2 mm, green. **Siliques** 15–25 × 0.7–1 mm, green to brown-green, terete, usually curved, glabrous. **Seeds** 0.6–0.9 mm, pale brown, short-oblong.



Pachycladon exile basal leaves, Awahokomo Bluff, upper Waitaki. Photographer: Nick Head, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Adult *Pachycladon exile*, Awahokomo Bluffs, upper Waitaki. Photographer: Nick Head, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *Pachycladon cheesemanii* Heenan et A.D.Mitch. but smaller in all parts and with an ovary circular (terete) in cross-section.

FLOWERING

October–November

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

FRUITING

October–December

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed. A short-lived, fairly non-descript plant which does best in a sunny exposed situation, growing within a fertile, free draining, soil. This is more of a plant for a specialist as it is not particularly attractive, and very prone to fungal diseases and insect damage. The foliage is edible.

THREATS

Threatened by the very small number (< 50 individuals) of plants known from the wild. These plants are confined to a single limestone outcrop where they are at risk from the spread of weeds such as *Festuca rubra*, hawkweed (*Pilosella* spp.) and cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), and erosion caused by excessive rabbit browsing pressure on the associated rock outcrop vegetation.

ETYMOLOGY

exile: From the Latin exile (thin, slender, feeble, meager)

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

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

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange PJ, Heenan PB, Norton DA, Rolfe JR, Sawyer JWD. 2010. Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch. 471 p.

Molloy BPJ, Edgar E, Heenan PB, de Lange PJ. 1999. New species of *Poa* (Gramineae) and *Ischnocarpus* (Brassicaceae) from limestone, North Otago, South Island, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 37(1): 41–50. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1999.9512610>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pachycladon-exile/>