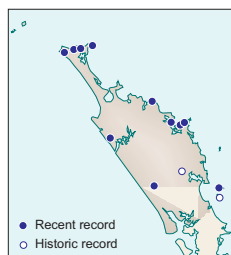


Daucus glochidiatus

native carrot



Status

Serious Decline

Description

An annual or biennial, carrot-like herb to 0.3 m tall. Stems and branches are hairless and leaves are either hairless or clad with stiff hairs. Rosette leaves are divided 2–3 times into linear lobes, and stem leaves are similar but smaller. Up to eight flowers arise in unevenly proportioned, umbrella-shaped flower heads. Flowers are white and sometimes tinged with red and about 1 mm diameter. Fruit have small, sharp spines about 1 mm long. Seeds are dark, oblong and about 3–5 mm long. Flowering occurs from October to December and fruiting from November to January.

Similar species

Carrot (*Daucus carota*—introduced) has regular umbrella-shaped flower heads and is larger in all parts.

Habitat

Lowland places on dry cliffs, rock talus, dry clay banks or forest margins.

Distribution

From the Three Kings to Southland and on the Chatham Islands. Also in Tasmania.

Threats

Competition from introduced herbs and grasses.



Daucus glochidiatus. Photo: C. Jones.

Eleocharis neozelandica

sand spike-sedge

Status

Gradual Decline

Description

A leafless, orange-brown or green sedge, to 80 mm tall. Stems are creeping, dark brown, about 1 mm diameter and usually buried. The flower stem is not upright but curls over towards the ground and is enclosed at the base by two filmy leaf sheaths, the lowermost of which is purplish brown. Each flower head is oval and borne singly at the tip of the stem without any surrounding sheaths. Flowering occurs from November to December and fruiting from January to February.

Similar species

Resembles some of the smaller *Isolepis* sedges but the distinctive terminal inflorescence lacking sheaths (bracts) and the orange coloured stems in the wild distinguish it as *Eleocharis neozelandica*. Other species of *Eleocharis* are larger and upright.

Habitat

Sandy margins of dune lakes, tidal creeks and damp sandy areas. Forms distinctive dark patches, often on sandflats and at stream exits on open beaches.

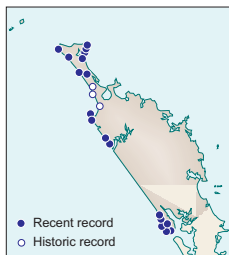
Distribution

Endemic to the North and South Islands on the west coast from Northland to Wellington and Farewell Spit. In Northland, it is found north of Hokianga Harbour and Pouto Peninsula which is the stronghold.

Threats

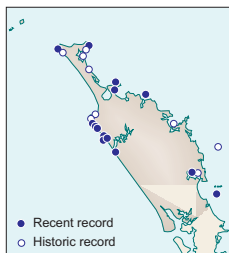
Compaction from vehicle damage, stock trampling, and competition from weeds especially where fertiliser run-off has caused eutrophication. Artificial raising and lowering of lake levels.

Eleocharis neozelandica. (Wild plants appear more orange/brown.)
Photo: L. Forester.



Euphorbia glauca

sand spurge



Status

Serious Decline

Description

A succulent, creeping herb with upright, red stems to 1 m tall. All parts of this plant exude a milky sap when damaged. The soft 10–120 × 15–25 mm long leaves are pale bluish green, cigar-shaped or elliptic in outline. These are often obscured by the conspicuous magenta coloured inflorescence, which is made up of many minute, red, cup-like flowers with purple, crescent-shaped glands around their rim. The pendulous fruits of this species are 3-lobed capsules, which change from green to pale brown when ripe. Flowering occurs from October to February; fruiting from December to April.



Above: *Euphorbia glauca* flower. Photo: S. Courtney.

Top: *Euphorbia glauca*. Photo: Phil Knightbridge.

Similar species

The milky sap distinguishes it from many other coastal herbs. The large cigar-shaped leaves and red cups around the flower-like inflorescences ('cyathia') distinguish this species from other *Euphorbia* species.

Habitat

Open sand dunes, where it may form large sandy mounds; also occurs on coastal gravel banks and rocky bluffs.

Distribution

Endemic to New Zealand, occurring throughout North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands. Numerous colonies are known, especially on offshore islands and the West Coast, but most cover only small areas.

Threats

Disturbance by human and vehicle traffic on beaches, habitat degradation from browsing and overtopping by scrub weeds such as tree lupin.

Hebe perbella

Bartlet's hebe

Status

Nationally Vulnerable

Description

A compact shrub to 1.8 m tall. Leaves are lance-shaped, usually between 40 and 90 mm long by 14–18 mm wide, olive-green to dark green, fleshy. Flowers are violet-red to lilac and crowded together in spikes up to 150 mm long. Flowering occurs in two distinct flushes: from March to June and August to December and fruiting from April to February. (Abridged from de Lange 1998.)

Similar species

Hebe brevifolia is a North Cape endemic. It is low growing and has crimson or magenta flowers which are not crowded on the spike. Leaves are elliptic-lance-shaped and generally smaller.

Habitat

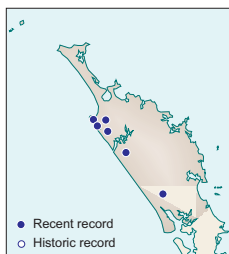
Base-rich, volcanic cliffs, open, rocky outcrops, and slip scars amongst kauri forest and gumland scrub; often amongst scrub and other vegetation on seepages or alongside streams, and waterfalls (de Lange 1998).

Distribution

A range restricted New Zealand endemic, confined to western Northland from Ahipara and Herekino to Ruawai.

Threats

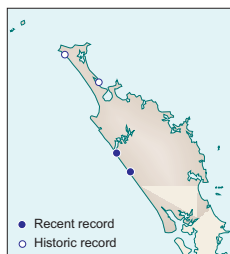
Habitat loss through weed encroachment (pampas grasses and mist flower) is the main threat. Possum and goat browse may also be a problem (de Lange 1998).



Top left: *Hebe perbella*. Photo: G.M. Crowcroft.
Left: *Hebe perbella* habit. Photo: P.J. de Lange.

Hebe speciosa

titirangi/napuka



Status

Nationally Endangered

Description

A low, spreading shrub to 2 m tall. Leaves are in opposite pairs, with each successive pair at right angles to the previous one. Leaf blades are large, glossy, dark green, leathery and fleshy, broadly elliptic to oblong, 35 × 25–55 mm. The edges and midrib of young leaves are tinged red and finely hairy. Flowers are magenta in colour, up to 7 mm long and are carried in dense spikes up to 110 mm long by 30 mm diameter. Flowering occurs from January to October. Capsules can be found throughout the year.

Similar species

Hebe brevifolia is a North Cape endemic and could be confused as it has a similar flower colour; its leaves are lance-shaped, light green and lack the purplish edges and mid-rib.

Habitat

Sea cliffs and steep slopes, either in open sites or amongst low scrub. A very popular garden plant.

Distribution

Endemic to the northwestern North Island and Marlborough Sounds. In Northland, it is known from Maunganui Bluff, South Hokianga Head and Scott's Point and historically from the Far North and Mt Camel.

Threats

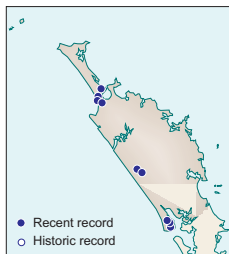
Habitat loss through erosion of the cliffs; browsing from domestic stock and possums; and competition from weeds are the main threats. Insect damage also occurs. Hybridisation with nursery-sourced plants, hybrids and cultivars is a potential problem near residential areas.



Hebe speciosa.

Photo: G.M. Crowcroft.

Hydatella inconspicua



Status

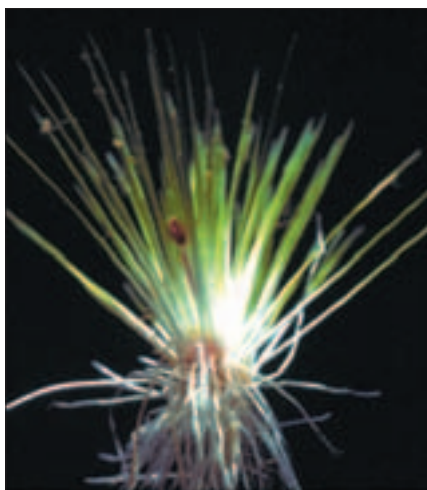
Serious decline

Description

A tiny, slender, grass-like, tufted herb to 20–40 mm tall. Leaves are sharply pointed and needle- or thread-like. The lower half of each leaf is colourless and does not broaden at its base; the upper half is bright green, (often turning purplish-red) and has a red mid-vein at maturity. Flowers and fruit are minute. Flowering occurs from October to January; fruiting from December to February.

Similar species

Centrolepis and *Gaimardia* look similar but their leaves broaden at the base into a membranous sheath. *Centrolepis strigosa* also has hairy leaves and flower stems that are taller than the leaves.



Hydatella inconspicua.

Photo: J.S. Clayton.

Habitat

Shallow water, commonly in sand, but also in silt and organic matter. Fans of small *Hydatella* spikes are sometimes seen uprooted on lake edges, especially after storms.

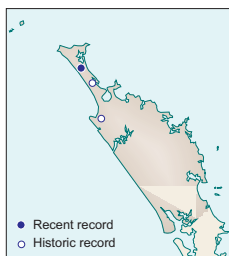
Distribution

Endemic to New Zealand, known from only 13 small lakes along the west coast of Northland (near Kaitaia, Kaiwi and the north head of Kaipara Harbour) and several lakes in the South Island.

Threats

Trampling by stock. Water level fluctuations. Competition from exotic weeds, e.g. *Egeria densa*, especially where nutrient run-off is a problem.

Isolepis fluitans



Status

Gradual Decline

Description

A loosely branched sedge with bright green leaves and flowering stems to 400 mm long. Leaves are round in cross section, alternately arranged and have a leaf sheath that angles away from the stem. Leaves have a 'kink' where the leaf blade and leaf sheath join but no protective membrane (ligule). The leaf is floppy, up to 100 mm long by 0.5 mm wide. Flowers occur in solitary spikelets with a short sheathing scale (bract).

Similar species

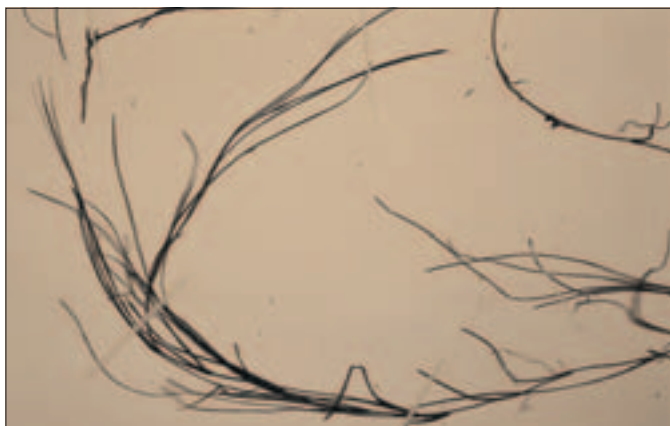
Potamogeton pectinatus is similar but has an upstanding membrane where the leaf sheath and the leaf blade join.

Habitat

Submerged in shallow water around the margins of lakes and streams, but occasionally terrestrial. Flower heads are emergent.

Distribution

Throughout New Zealand, from Northland to Fiordland, also in Europe, Asia, Africa, Malaysia and Australia. In Northland, known historically from Kaitaia and Houhora, and recently from one dune lake near Te Kao, Far North.



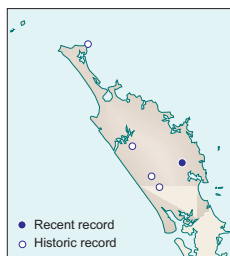
Threats

Compaction and pugging by domestic stock, competition from weeds, especially where nutrient run-off is a problem and wetland drainage are the main threats.

Isolepis fluitans.

Photo: A.J. Townsend.

Juncus holoschoenus



Status

Nationally Endangered

Description

A loosely tufted, creeping, leafy rush to 0.45 m tall. Leaves are bright green, 2–4 mm wide, round in cross-section or slightly flattened. Leaf tips are pointed. Transverse divisions (septa) extend across the whole width of the leaf blade but are only partial in the leaf sheath. Leaf sheaths are long and have two blunt lobes. Flowers are borne at the tips of distinct branchlets, and are 4–5 mm in diameter. Petals are all of an equal length and have sharply pointed tips; petal colour is green or greenish brown but occasionally red. Each flower has six stamens. The capsule is 3.5 to 4.5 mm long and usually shorter than the tepals.

Similar species

Can be confused with *J. multiflorus* or *J. microcephalus*, so a fertile specimen should be taken. *Juncus prismatocarpus* has three stamens and flat leaves with divisions that run along the leaf as well as transversely. *Juncus fockei* has capsules that are mostly longer than the tepals; and tepals that only slightly taper towards the tip.

Habitat

Damp ground, eutrophic swamps, drains and roadside ditches from sea level to 1000 m.

Distribution

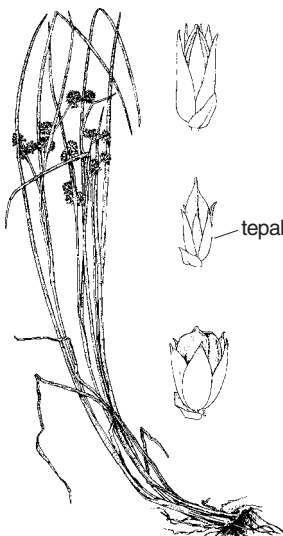
Occurring locally throughout the North Island and Canterbury, where it has not been found recently. Not recorded from Northland recently. Most records are not *J. holoschoenus* sensu stricto, so this plant has yet to be confirmed in Northland. Also common in Australia.

Threats

Habitat loss through drainage, spraying and competition from other wetland plants.

Comment

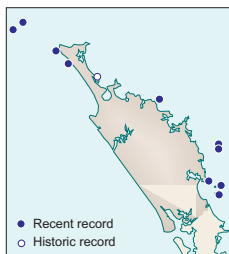
This species is probably more widespread than collections suggest as it is easily overlooked. If you think you have found it, collect a good specimen with flowering or fruiting material (if available) so that an expert can identify and voucher it.



Juncus holoschoenus line drawing by T. Galloway

Lepidium oleraceum sensu stricto

Cook's scurvy grass



Status

Nationally Endangered

Description

A spreading but upright, hairless herb to 0.5 m tall. Foliage and stems have a strong cress-like flavour and if crushed, smell like cabbage. Leaves are fleshy, green, oblong to elliptic with rounded tips, up to 100 × 30 mm. Margins are evenly toothed towards the tip, and taper to a broad, flat base. Flowers are 2–3 mm diameter, white and arranged in clusters. Fruit are flattened, broadly egg-shaped silicles with a sharply pointed apex, and each contain two brown seeds. Flowers appear year-round, but mainly in September to March. Fruiting occurs from December to April. Seed production is rapid so flowers and immature and ripe seed are all typically found on the same plant.

Similar species

Ngaio seedlings can appear similar but have small whitish gland-dots on the leaves and lack the cabbage-like smell.

Habitat

Fertile soils on coastal slopes, often associated with bird burrows, rocky shorelines and gravel beaches. In Northland the habit is form low mounds.

Distribution

Once common on the coast and islands throughout New Zealand, but now largely restricted to off-shore islands including Three Kings, Motuopao, Matapia, Cavallis, Poor Knights and Hen & Chickens in Northland.

Threats

This plant is browsed by virtually everything, including domestic stock, rats, snails, aphids, leaf miner, diamond backed moth and cabbage white butterfly. Fungal disease (white rust fungus) is also a problem and the plant has been and continues to be over-collected by people.

Comment

The species grows well from seed but strict quarantine measures for pests and diseases are required to prevent their establishment when visiting offshore islands.



Lepidium oleraceum.

Photo: L.J. Forester.