



## *Tetrachondra hamiltonii*

### Common Name(s):

None known

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Data Deficient

### Distribution:

Endemic to New Zealand. In the North Island only known from the N.W. Ruahine corner. In the South Island localised but widespread, with its main centre of distribution Otago, western Southland, Fiordland and Stewart Island.

### Habitat:

A species of open, compact turf communities such as those developed along lake and tarn margins, flushes and seepages. Occasionally found in suitably open sites within forest.

### Features\*:

Creeping perennial herb rooting at nodes forming diffuse to dense turf-like patches. Stems fleshy, distinctly angled, square in cross-section, dark striped. Leaves opposite, 2 x 2 mm, broadly ovate to obovate-oblong, bright green or mottled with red, fleshy, sparsely covered with indistinct circular oil glands, glabrescent (leaf margins often faintly ciliolate), shortly petiolate to sessile, bases decurrent with stem. Flowers soliatry, off-white to greenish-white. Calyx-lobes minute, ovate-triangular, corolla lobes 4, obovate-oblong, pubescent. Stamens and styles 4. Fruit of 4 brown setulose nutlets. These broadly elliptic or obovate, (1-)1.1-1.4(-1.5) mm.

### Flowering:

Flowers may be found throughout the year

### Fruiting:

Fruits may be found throughout the year

### Threats:

A naturally uncommon species of open damp turf, seepages, and the marginal turf communities of lakes and tarns. Sometimes in open scrub or damp grassland. Indications are that in parts of its range it is declining possibly as a consequence of taller, faster growing weeds spreading into the habitats it requires.

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 August 2003. Description based on Allan (1961).

### References and further reading:

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Wellington, Government Printer

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=144](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=144)



**Caption:** *Tetrachondra hamiltonii*  
**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Caption:** Close up of *Tetrachondra hamiltonii*  
**Photographer:** John Barkla