



Cardamine latior

Common Name(s):

Auckland Islands bitter cress

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. Auckland Islands (Auckland and Adams Islands)

Habitat:

Recorded growing among boulders and fellfield, particularly at higher altitudes on mountain top screens

Features*:

Perennial herb, caespitose, with many leaves forming a small, compact rosette. Leaves pinnate, up to 40–50 mm long, glabrous, green, ± coriaceous; petiole 8–12 mm long, 1.7–1.8 mm wide, winged and sheathing at base. Leaflets 11–15, in pairs and usually overlapping in distal part of leaf, alternate and distant in lower part of leaf, reniform, orbicular to broadly elliptic, hydathodes prominent on margin and in axil of petiolule, margin entire, base cordate, ± truncate to obtuse, apex obtuse to rounded; terminal leaflet lamina 3.5–4.7 × 3.5–4.1 mm, with 2 conspicuous lateral lobes; lateral leaflet lamina 1.5–2.5 × 0.7–2.2 mm; petiolules up to 0.5 mm long, often ± absent. Cauline leaves occasionally present subtending only the lower 1–2 flowers; similar to rosette leaves, but with fewer leaflets and smaller in all parts. Inflorescence usually up to 50 mm long, occ. 145 mm in sheltered sites, 1.2–1.6 mm diam. at base, glabrous, compact and not elongating after flowering, fastigiate, racemose, flowers usually crowded in upper half. Pedicels 5–10(–17) mm long, 0.8–1.2 mm diam., usually erect. Sepals 2.0–2.4 × 0.7–1.2 mm, oblong to elliptic, glabrous, margin white and membranous, apex obtuse to rounded, base truncate. Petals 3.2–4.0 × 1.2–1.5 mm, white, pale pink or purple, limb obovate; apex obtuse to rounded; base cuneate to attenuate, tapering to an indistinct claw. Filaments 6, 1.6–2.4 mm long; anthers 0.4–0.5 mm long. Ovary 1.5–2.6 mm long, 0.5–0.6 mm diam., terete, glabrous; stigma 0.3–0.5 mm diam. Siliques 12–23 × 1.7–2.2 mm, crowded, erect, beak 0.7–1.4 mm long; replum 0.9–1.1 mm wide; septum with a prominent central vein. Seeds 1.4–2.1 mm long, 1.1–1.5 mm wide, 0.4–0.5 mm thick, rounded or oblong, red-brown.

Flowering:

October – December

Fruiting:

October – February

Threats:

Rated as Naturally Uncommon because this species is naturally confined to a restricted geographic area of <1000 km²

***Attribution:**

Description from: Heenan (2008)

References and further reading:

Heenan, P.B. (2008). *N.Z. Journal of Bot.* 46(4): 559–566

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285–309

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1587