



## *Wurmbea novae-zelandiae*

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

Threatened - Nationally Endangered

### **Distribution:**

Endemic to the North and South Island. In the North Island possibly extinct, having been reported twice from the Maungaharuru Range. In the South Island it only occurs east of the main divide from Canterbury to Southland.

### **Habitat:**

Lowland to subalpine swamps, tarns lake margins and in damp seepages within tussock grasslands.

### **Features\*:**

Summer-green, inconspicuous bulbous herb. Plants 30-80(-100) mm tall at flowering. Corm 7(-9) x 5(-8) mm, enclosed in persistent papery sheaths. Stem annual, slender, < leaves. Leaves (1-)2(-3), 20-90(-120) x 1-2(-8) mm, linear, deeply channelled or folded, apex terete. Below the flower are 1 or 2 smaller, green or petaloid bract-like leaves. Flower solitary, terminal. Tepals 3-6, 4-5 x 1.5 - 2 mm, oblong-lanceolate, obtuse, similar, white or slightly pink. Stamens 3-6, fused to tepal base. Ovary 2.5 mm diam., subglobose, styles widely divergent, and separating with the valves of the ripe capsules. Capsule 4-6(-10) x 2-3-6 mm, oval, pericarp at first green and fleshy, becoming woody on maturity, splitting into 2-6 wide-spreading valves. Seeds orange-brown, 1 mm diam., globose.

### **Flowering:**

November - December

### **Fruiting:**

January - February

### **Threats:**

Threatened by wetland modification, drainage, and by the spread of weeds.

### **\*Attribution:**

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 August 2003. Description based on Moore & Edgar (1970) - see also de Lange et al. (2010).

### **References and further reading:**

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Wellington, Government Printer

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=172](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=172)



**Caption:** Close up of Iphigenia in fruit

**Photographer:** Gillian Crowcroft, January 1995, near Mossburn



**Caption:** Iphigenia plants showing bulbs

**Photographer:** Gillian Crowcroft, January 1995, near Mossburn