



## *Cardamine lacustris*

### Common Name(s):

Iti

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Lakes Manapouri, Te Anau and also around small tarns in the eastern part of Fiordland)

### Habitat:

A lake and tarn dwelling plant. It mostly grows on gently-shelving slopes usually within a sparse turf of other plants where a thin cover of silt or fine sand is lodged among firm and stable cobbles or gravels. In its main lake habitats these are sites which tend to be neither the most sheltered nor the most exposed available, but are subject to moderate wave action and the resultant periodic disturbance of sediments.

### Features\*:

Minute ephemeral or annual rosette herb. Stems on young plants very short, on older plants lateral, ascending at first, later prostrate, geniculate, rooting regularly, up to 50 mm long, reaching 0.8-2.0 mm diameter, glabrous or sometimes with sparse, fine, slightly recurved hairs. Leaves glabrous, or with sparse simple hairs on petiole, slightly glossy, dull green or tinged purplish-grey, in rosettes and clustered on stems. Early rosette leaves entire, linear-spathulate; later rosette and cauline leaves pinnatifid, 20-50 mm long; petiole 2-12 mm long, 0.5-1.0 mm wide; terminal lobe narrow-spathulate, 2-5 mm broad; lateral lobes narrowly oblong-spathulate, 4-10 mm long, sometimes single or in uneven numbers, but usually in 1-3 subopposite pairs. Peduncle glabrous, 1-2 mm long, reaching 2-5 mm long at fruiting. Sepals suberect, oblong, glabrous, green with narrow pale margins, 1.5-2.0 × 0.6-1.0 mm. Petals white, suberect, oblong- to obovate-spathulate, obtuse, 1.8-2.5 × 0.8-1.2 mm, weakly clawed; limb spreading. Stamens suberect; median stamens usually 2, rarely 4, 1.6-2.0 mm long; lateral stamens 1.0-1.5 mm long. Ovary ellipsoid, 1.0-1.6 mm long; stigma sessile, 0.4 mm diameter; locules each with 5-8 ovules. Silicle elliptic to oblong, 1.0-3.5 × 1.0-1.7 mm; valves pale straw coloured, thin, convex, glabrous, not veined or with 1 weak vein. Seeds c.5-8 in one row in each locule, pale to reddish brown, oblong, c.1 mm long.

### Flowering:

October - May (depends on water levels)

### Fruiting:

November - July (depends on water levels)

### Threats:

Apparently not threatened but not that common either. Its presence is dictated by seasonal water levels. Some populations around Lake Manapuri and Te Anau may be threatened. Further research is required.

### \*Attribution:

Description from Garnock-Jones and Johnson (1987)

### References and further reading:

Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Johnson, P.N. 1987: *Iti lacustris* (Brassicaceae), a new genus and species from southern New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 25: 603-610, where in the species was initially described as a segregate genus *Iti*

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=389](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=389)



**Caption:** Ex. Cult Hamilton

**Photographer:** Gillian Crowcroft



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