



## *Bulbinella modesta*

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

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. South Island, West Coast. Known from scattered sites in lowland habitats south of Westport to about Okarito.

### **Habitat:**

Lowland pakihi and associated swamp forest.

### **Features\*:**

Summer green herb. Plants very slender, < or = 300 mm. Leaves bright green, < 10 mm wide, flaccid, linear-lanceolate, gradually tapering to a subacute apex. Inflorescence a somewhat short and broad raceme, bearing scattered, well spaced flowers borne on a slender, often twisted peduncle, this often decurved to procumbent. Flowers pedicellate, pedicels long, spreading, often recurved at apex. Individual flowers star-like, with yellow 9.5-13 mm, perianths. These long persistent, as shrivelled remnants pendant from the base of the ripening capsules. Capsules globose, 4-5-5 mm diameter. Seeds 3.5-4 mm long, brown, smooth and rounded without wings.

### **Flowering:**

December - January

### **Fruiting:**

December - March

### **Threats:**

As a lowland species of alluvial forest, pakihi, and back swamps, this species has become vulnerable to forest logging and wetland drainage, and populations have declined through the spread of introduced wetland weeds such as *Juncus bulbosus* and *J. squarrosus*. However, recent surveys (2004, 2005) have found numerous populations comprising many hundreds of plants. The overall impression is that this species has probably increased its range due to human modification of forested systems, thereby creating more Pakihi wetlands, and that any decline is more likely to be the result of natural succession rather than any human induced threat.

### **\*Attribution:**

Description modified from Moore and Edgar (1970)

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

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington. 354pp.

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=53](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=53)



**Caption:** Photo of *Bulbinella modesta*

**Photographer:** Phil Knightbridge



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