



Plantago aucklandica

Current Threat Status (2012):

Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: Auckland Islands

Habitat:

Confined to higher elevations on the Auckland Islands where it grows in fellfield and marshy places and on bare wind-blown areas or rock outcrops

Features*:

Rosette plants; primary root 6-25 mm thick. Leaves all basal, 5-13 per rosette, usually brown, rarely green when dry, narrowly angular-ovate, narrowly obovate or obovate, widest point above middle, 50-116 × 14-50 mm; axillary hairs rust coloured, usually very obvious, rarely slightly visible, up to 6-40mm long. Lamina 40-116 mm long, elliptic, rhombic, angular-obovate, widest point usually above or at middle, rarely below middle, usually punctate, rarely not so, glabrous adaxially, abaxially rarely with isolated hairs on midrib; hairs patent and 0.4-2.2mm; veins 3-7; lamina apex acute or obtuse; base usually attenuate, sometimes cuneate; margins subentire, with 0-24 minute, rarely small, obtuse, regular or irregular teeth up to 0.2-1.6 mm long, glabrous or with isolated hairs; petiole sometimes distinguishable from lamina, 14-55 × 6.3-19.0 mm at narrowest point. Inflorescences erect, 1-6 per rosette, 117-338 mm long (including spikes); scapes elongating before anthesis, not ribbed, 62-206 × 6-8 mm at fruiting, with isolated hairs, sparsely hairy or densely hairy, becoming glabrous; hairs patent; spikes 36-136 × 6-8 mm at fruiting, linear-ovoid. Flowers 44-132 per spike, densely crowded especially above, more distant below (up to 12 mm apart), half of flowers found in upper 1/3 to 1/4 of spike; bracts 1 per flower, ovate, broadly ovate or very broadly ovate, obtuse, 1.7-2.9 × 0.8-2.1 mm; bract margins glabrous or with isolated hairs near apex and outer surface glabrous; bract axils densely hairy, 1.1-2.3 mm long; calyx usually shorter, rarely longer than capsule, 1.8-2.6 × 1.3-2.3mm wide; calyx lobes 1.5-2.4 × 1.3-1.8 mm, ovate or broadly ovate, obtuse; calyx lobe margins scarious and glabrous, middle coloured part 0.4-1.0 mm wide, outer surface glabrous; corolla tube 1.5-2.5 mm long, longer than lobes; corolla lobes narrowly ovate or ovate, acute, 1.1-1.7 × 0.4-0.8 mm; stamen filaments 2.3-4.4 mm long, attached to lower half of corolla tube 0.4-1.2 mm from tube base; anthers 1.0-1.5mm long; style 2.3-4.2 mm long, densely hairy throughout; stigma filiform, undifferentiated from style; ovary 0.8-1.4 × 0.5-1.0 mm; ovules 2. Capsules 2.0-3.0 × 1.3-2.3 mm, 0.6-1.7 mm deep; ellipsoid, broadly ellipsoid, rhomboid or angular-obovoid, widest at middle or upper half, septum not reaching top of capsule, not forming an upper compartment to one side, lower portion 1.0-2.0 mm long, cup-shaped. Seeds 1-2 per capsule, 1.3-2.0 × 0.8-1.6 mm, uniform, ellipsoid, broadly ellipsoid, rarely rhomboid or broadly rhomboid, brown or dark brown; edges rounded.

Flowering:

November - February

Fruiting:

November - February

Threats:

Plantago aucklandica is endemic to the Auckland Islands where it is naturally confined to several high-elevation localities. Meudt (2012) argues that because it is not known how many mature individuals exist and how population sizes are changing over time, and there are very few recent collections of this species, then, as a precautionary measure the qualifier 'DP' (Data Poor) should also be appended to the current threat assessment. This action has been agreed upon by the Indigenous Vascular Plant Threat Listing Panel (P. J. de Lange unpubl. data).

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 18 June 2012. Description adapted from Meudt (2012).

References and further reading:

Meudt, H.M. 2012: A taxonomic revision of native New Zealand *Plantago* (Plantaginaceae). New Zealand Journal of Botany 50: 101-178.

Webb, C.J.; Simpson, M.J.A. 2001: Seeds of New Zealand gymnosperms and dicotyledons. Christchurch, The Caxton Press. 428 p.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=623



Caption: In cultivation ex Auckland Island. Mar 2007.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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