



## *Centipeda aotearoana*

### Common Name(s):

New Zealand sneezewort

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand, Three kings, North and South Islands.

### Habitat:

Open damp ground, lake, tarn and river margins, ephemeral wetlands, and drains.

### Features\*:

Annual to short-lived perennial prostrate herb forming circular patches 10-30 cm diameter. Stems trailing, prostrate, sparsely to moderately covered in cottony-hairs. Leaves yellow-green, obovate to spatulate in outline, 4-8(-12) mm long, 1.5-4 mm wide, margins with 1-3 acute to blunt teeth, rarely entire. Inflorescence a single leaf-opposed, unstalked hemispherical, capitula (daisy-like structure), domed, 3-4(-7) mm diameter, female (outer) florets c.60-120 in 3-5 rows, bisexual flowers 8-16. Fruiting heads persistent. Cypselas (seeds) brown, club-shaped or narrowly cylindrical, 1.2-1.7 mm long, 4-angled with prominent ribs at each of the angles, smooth or finely scabrid in lower portion, glandular hairs sparse or absent, non-glandular hairs spreading or subappressed, confined to ribs.

### Flowering:

Herbarium specimens and field notes indicate it may flower from mid summer through to autumn but plants may continue flowering into winter.

### Fruiting:

Herbarium specimens suggest that fruit is produced in late summer to autumn.

### Threats:

*Centipeda aotearoana* was described by Australian Botanist Neville Walsh in 2001. At the time of its description the comment was made that this species does not appear to be rare. Current indications are that *C. aotearoana* is probably a naturally sparse, opportunistic species

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P. J. de Lange 5 May 2005. Description adapted from Walsh (2001).

### References and further reading:

Deverson, T, Kennedy G. 2005. The New Zealand Oxford Dictionary. Oxford University Press: Victoria.

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 11: 285-309

Walsh, N.G. 2001: A revision of *Centipeda* (Asteraceae). *Muelleria* 15: 33-64.

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. (eds). Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Christchurch, Botany Division, D.S.I.R. 1365 p.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=738](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=738)



**Caption:** L. Waiporohita, Oct.  
**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth



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