

# Euphrasia cheesemanii

## FAMILY

Orobanchaceae

## AUTHORITY

Euphrasia cheesemanii Wettst.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

EUPCHE

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, north-west Nelson to the Brunner Range and Mount Mantell.

## HABITAT

Montane to subalpine wet places and edges of swamps.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender succulent annual herb 50-100 mm high with lax ascending bifariously pubescent branches up to 200 mm or more long. Leaves sessile, distant, 4-10 x 3-8 mm, ovate to ovate-oblong with 2-4 pairs of obtuse to subacute crenations and obtuse tip, submembranous, subglabrous or finely white-pubescent, margins and veins below thickened and scabrid or setose with fine stiff hairs. Flowers few and usually distant towards the upper part of the branches, pedicels slender, white-pubescent and sometimes also glandular-hairy, up to 30 mm long and usually much longer than leaves, usually more or less curved in fruit. Calyx 3-4 mm long, subevenly divided about  $\frac{1}{3}$  way into obtuse lobes with margins and midribs thickened and white-pubescent, sometimes glandular hairs also present. Corolla white, 8-12 mm. long; tube much greater than calyx; lobes of lower lip 2.5-3 mm. wide, entire. Anthers golden yellow, margins hairy, awns unequal. Capsule equal to or greater than calyx, 3-4 x 3-3.5 mm, obovate to suborbicular, finely setose at apex; seeds 2 per locule or 1 by abortion, approximately 2 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Forms of *Euphrasia australis* with obtuse leaf-teeth and calyx-lobes are superficially very similar to *E. cheesemanii* but differ in pubescence, anther-characters and number of ovules.

## FLOWERING

December - February



Mt Peel, Nelson, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mt Owen. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 11/02/2017, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

January - March

## LIFE CYCLE

Seeds is dispersed by wind and possibly water and ballistic projection (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## ETYMOLOGY

**euphrasia**: Eye-medicine

**cheesemanii**: Named after Thomas Frederick Cheeseman (1846 - 15 October 1923) who was a New Zealand botanist and naturalist who, in 1906, produced The Manual of the New Zealand Flora.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by M.D. Ward (3 November 2020) Description adapted from Allan (1961).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H. H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Volume 1. Wellington: Government Printer. Pages 857-858.

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

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: Ward, M.D. (Year at time of access): *Euphrasia cheesemanii* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/euphrasia-cheesemanii/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/euphrasia-cheesemanii/>