

Haastia pulvinaris var. minor

COMMON NAME

vegetable sheep

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Haastia pulvinaris var. minor Laing

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Nelson, Marlborough to Otago (mostly east of the main divide).

HABITAT

Subalpine and alpine fellfield and rocks among screes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout perennial forming rounded very compact masses up to 1 x 1 m diameter (usually much less); branchlets with leaves < 15 mm diameter, densely compacted. Leaves c.6-8 × 4-9 mm; apices thickened and crenulate and concealed by dense brush of long tangled whitish hairs, both surfaces or underside only clad in long hairs; veins 3-15, anastomosing above. Receptacle flat or slightly convex, c.5 mm diameter. Involucral bracts linear, obtuse to acute, glabrous except at apices. Achenes compressed, linear, c.2 mm long. Pappus-hairs scarcely thickened, up to 9 mm long, strongly barbellate (especially near apices)

SIMILAR TAXA

Haastia pulvinaris var. *minor* is distinguished from var. *pulvinaris* by its much smaller size (only rarely forming hummocks up to 1 x 1 m), branchlets < 15 mm diameter, and by the distinctly whitish tomentum. Both varieties are occasionally sympatric and may perhaps be better treated as species. Both varieties of *Haastia pulvinaris* could be confused with species of *Raoulia*, especially *R. bryoides*, *R. eximia* and *R. mammillaris*, with which they sometimes grow. From *Raoulia*, *Haastia* is distinguished by the anther-cells which are not tailed, and by the leaves which are > 10 mm long. Recent molecular data suggests that *Haastia* is very closely allied to *Brachyglottis*.



Robert Ridge, Nelson Lakes. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Misery Tarn, Branch River. Photographer: Simon Moore, Licence: CC BY-SA.

FLOWERING

November - January

FLOWER COLOURS

Orange, Yellow

FRUITING

December – February

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

THREATS

A naturally uncommon, sparsely distributed plant of high-elevation scree habitats. Although it is not threatened, it is rarely common at any particular place.

ETYMOLOGY

haastia: After Haast

pulvinaris: From the Latin pulvinar 'a cushion' and -aris 'resembling', meaning resembling a cushion i.e. convex or rather flattened

minor: Smaller

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I, Government Printer, Wellington.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/haastia-pulvinaris-var-minor/>