

Abrotanella inconspicua

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Abrotanella inconspicua Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

ABRINC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

South Island, widespread on the higher mountains of Central Otago and the lakes district but extending west locally, almost to the Southern Alps.

HABITAT

Low to High-Alpine 1200-2000 metres, in boggy ground in cushionfield vegetation, but not the most exposed sites and late snowbanks. Further west, it occurs locally in exposed snow tussock-herbfield and fellfield.

FEATURES

Forming moss-like patches 10 cm or more across, bright-green. Stock rather stout, multiple heads, emitting on short stolons densely clad in imbricate leaves, branches up to 3 cm. long; Leaves close-set along branches, 6-10 × 1 mm, coriaceous, erect to patent, awl-shaped, curved at tip, narrowly linear to linear-oblong to subulate-oblong, subacute, ciliolate near sheathing base; midrib prominent. Capitula solitary, approximately 3 mm. diameter, sessile, invested by leaves, barely extend beyond them as the fruits ripen; phyllaries up to 3 mm long, linear-oblong, obtuse, scarious, nerves usually prominent. Florets 15-20; female with slender corolla-tube, 4-lobed; disk-florets sub-funnelform, usually 5-lobed. Achenes approximately 1-2 mm long, linear-clavate, distinctly to obscurely 4-ribbed, pubescent to glabrous.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *A. patea* which has broader (1.5-2 mm) blunt leaves and flower stalks that elongate beyond the leaves as the fruits ripen.

FLOWERING

October-February



Old Man Range, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Pisa Range. Photographer: Colin Ogle

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Yellow

FRUITING

November-March

LIFE CYCLE

Cypsela are primarily dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009)

ETYMOLOGY

abrotanella: Little Artemisia (known as Abrotanus by ancient herbalists)

inconspicua: Inconspicuous

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Mark (2012) & Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H. H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1. Wellington: Government Printer. pg. 695.

Mark, A. F. 2012. Above the Treeline: A Nature Guide to Alpine New Zealand. Craig Potton Publishing, Nelson. pg. 198.

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.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/abrotanella-inconspicua/>