

# Arctotheca calendula

## COMMON NAME

Cape weed

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Arctotheca calendula* (L.) Levyns

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

ARCCAL

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Coastal situations especially sand dunes.

## FEATURES

Annual rosette herb with sprawling stems rarely reaching 30 cm. The leaves are lobed up to 30 x 5 cm and held on somewhat branched and leafy stems. Flower heads are solitary and are approximately 3.5 cm across with a black disc and yellow rays.

## SIMILAR TAXA

May be confused with closely related *Gazania rigens* and *G. linearis* these also have yellow flowers, but *A. calendula* has lobed leaves and the stems lack the latex contained in *Gazania* species. May also be confused with *Arctotis stoechadifolia*, but this species has purple florets on the flowers.

## FLOWERING

October, November, December

## FLOWER COLOURS

Black, Yellow

## FRUITING

October, November, December, January, February, March, April

## YEAR NATURALISED

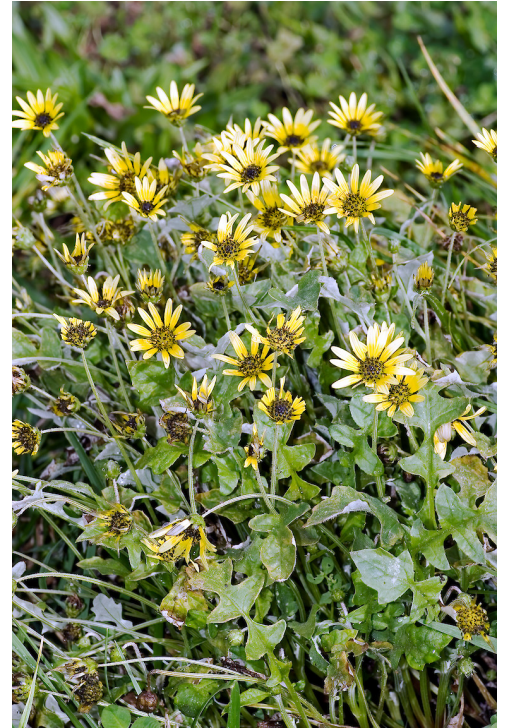
1870

## ORIGIN

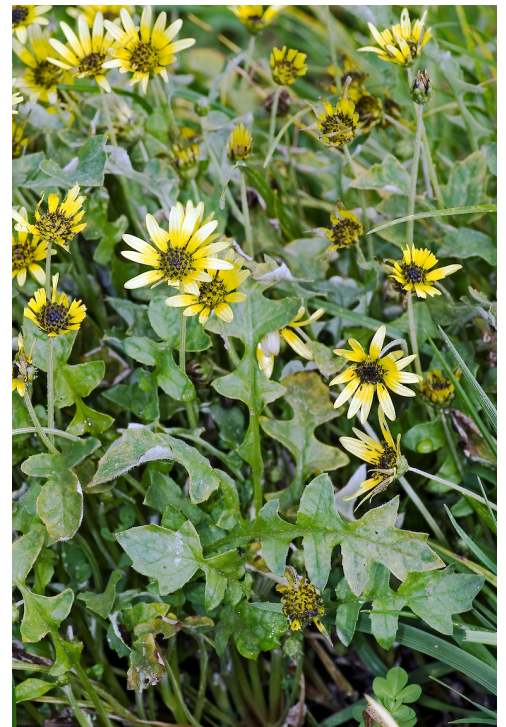
South Africa

## ETYMOLOGY

**calendula**: From the Latin word *kalendae*, first day of the month when interest was paid; refers to the plant's long flowering season.



Hutt River. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Hutt River. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

**REASON FOR INTRODUCTION**

Accidental

**LIFE CYCLE**

Annual, producing prolific amounts of seed that are dispersed by people, wind, sand movement.

**TOLERANCES**

Can tolerate salt and poor soils in coastal situations.

**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/arctotheca-calendula/>