

# Argyrotegium mackayi

## SYNONYMS

*Raoulia mackayi* Buchanan, *Gnaphalium traversii* var. *mackayi* (Buchanan) Kirk, *Gnaphalium mackayi* (Buchanan) Cockayne, *Euchiton mackayi* (Buchanan) Anderb.

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Argyrotegium mackayi* (Buchanan) J.Ward et Breitwieser

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

ARGMAC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island: Ruahine and Tararua Ranges; South Island: throughout. Stewart Island: Mt Anglem only

## HABITAT

Montane to alpine bogs, herbfield and grassland, often in wet sites and commoner in wetter areas

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).



Mangahuia, Ruahine, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Old Man Range, Otago. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb with much-branched stems terminating in leafy rosettes and usually forming mats, 10–70 mm tall. Leaves mostly in basal rosettes; basal leaves cuneate to short petiole, densely white-tomentose on both surfaces including mid-vein but usually excluding petiole on upper, plane, elliptic to broad-elliptic or spatulate, usually obtuse, sometimes acute, mucronate, 3–20 × 2–6 mm; cauline leaves 1–few, apetiolate, reduced upwards and becoming ovate-triangular to linear, amplexicaul and finally scalelike. Capitula c.2–4 mm diameter, usually solitary, very rarely 2 together; subtending leaves < capitula; scape terminal, simple, erect, amongst leaves at flowering, usually elongating somewhat at fruiting. Involucral bracts elliptic-oblong, obtuse to subacute, 4.5–6.0 mm long; stereome green or tinged reddish purple at apex; lamina pale brown, with darker band at base; gap and margins clear or tinged reddish purple. Achenes glabrous, c.1.2 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Both *Argyrotegium mackayi* and *A. nitidulum* are mat-forming species with solitary terminal flowers. *Argyrotegium nitidulum* is distinguished from *A. mackayi* by the leaf hairs which are more or less straight, antrorse, appressed and glossy rather than tangled and white.

## FLOWERING

October – February

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

## FRUITING

December – April

## LIFE CYCLE

Pappate cypselae are dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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(4): 285–309.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/argyrotegium-mackayi/>