

Argyrotegium nitidulum

SYNONYMS

Gnaphalium nitidulum Hook.f., Euchiton nitidulus (Hook.f.) Anderb.

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Argyrotegium nitidulum (Hook.f.) J. Ward et Brietwieser

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Dicotyledonous Herbs - Composites

NVS CODE

ARGNIT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, TO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. South Island, Marlborough and near Arthurs Pass. Present in Australia

HABITAT

Alpine, favouring open stony ground within tussock grassland, herbfield. Also on scree.

FEATURES

Stoloniferous perennial with much-branched, densely packed stems terminating in leafy rosettes and usually forming compact cushion or ball-like mats, 20-40 mm tall. Leaves mostly in basal rosettes, imbricating, initially erect then reflexing with age, basally scarious to almost glabrous though usually with a few floccose hairs near junction with stem, upper portion clad in appressed, sericeous, glossy brown tomentum; basal leaves slightly narrowed to broad sheathing petiole, densely sericeous on both surfaces including mid-vein but not petiole, keeled toward apex, lamina narrow-oblong to spatulate, obtuse, 5-12 × 2-4 mm; cauline leaves 1-2, narrow. Capitula solitary, subsessile or sessile c.5-8 mm diameter; subtending leaves < capitula; scape terminal, simple, erect, amongst leaves at flowering, elongating only to just above leaves at fruiting. Involucral bracts scarious, narrowly elliptic-oblong, subacute, 6.9-8.0 mm long; stereome yellow-green; lamina very pale brown, sometimes darker at base; gap and margins clear to mid-brown. Achenes 1.0-1.2 mm long, with scattered appressed hairs, becoming glabrous. Pappus of c.30-36 filiform hairs, c.6.0-6.2 mm. long.



Island Saddle (January). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Island Saddle (January). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

SIMILAR TAXA

Both *Argyrotegium nitidulum* and *A. mackayi* 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

November - January

FRUITING

December - February

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

THREATS

While not actively threatened this is a very uncommon plant in New Zealand. To ensure its long term security it is important that all populations are routinely monitored. Some populations are especially vulnerable to plant collectors and to a lesser extent the spread of weeds.

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* 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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