

Brachyscome humilis

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial rosette herb, often forming loose mats. Leaves apetiolate, narrow- spatulate, mostly entire, rarely with 1-2 pairs of shallow teeth near apex, obtuse, glabrous, 5.0-10.0 × 1.0-1.5 mm. Peduncle naked, glabrous except for few glandular hairs below capitulum, 30-45 mm long and 0.3-0.6 mm diameter at flowering, elongating to up to 70 mm at fruiting. Involucral bracts elliptic to narrow-oblong, obtuse and fimbriate to apex, glabrous except for few glandular hairs at base, 2.5-3.0 mm long. Rays 12-22, white, c.3-5 mm long. Disc yellow. Achenes obovoid-oblong, compressed, eglandular, c.1.5 mm long; pappus of bristles c.0.3 mm long

SIMILAR TAXA

Perhaps most similar to *B. linearis* - which is a species of marginal turf communities around lakes Te Anau, Manapouri and the Mavora Lakes. From that species it differs by its ecology (alpine in snow banks and hollows), larger flowers on longer scapes, hairy capitula and achenes, and longer ray florets.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Central Otago (Rock and Pillar Range)

HABITAT

Alpine. Inhabiting snowbanks and hollows above 1200 m.

THREATS

Unclear. Probably a Naturally Uncommon species however this species remains very poorly known and until a comprehensive survey is undertaken ascertaining the exact conservation status of this species remains guesswork. It for this reason that it has been listed as Data Deficient. Furthermore, the status of similar plants found on the ultramafics of West Dome and the Livingston Range needs investigation

GENUS

Brachyscome

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Brachyscome humilis G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1943)

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



A plant on Rock and Pillar Range (February).
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December – February

FRUITING

January - April

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

ETYMOLOGY

brachyscome: From Greek brachys ‘short’ and comus ‘hair’, refers to the lack of papys on the fruit

humilis: Lowest, dwarf, small, slight

NVS CODE

BRAHUM

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36-37, 37

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | Data Deficient

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, NS, NStr, RE, RR, Sp, St, TL Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the “Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025” Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

Moore LB, Edgar E. 1970. Flora of New Zealand, Volume II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones except Gramineae. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 354 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified by Peter de Lange from Moore and Edgar (1970)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachyscome-humilis/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026