

Brachyscome linearis

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: Sp, DPT, RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Glabrous annual rosette herb. **Leaves** apetiolate, linear to very narrowly linear-spathulate, mostly entire, very rarely with 1–2 teeth near apex, obtuse to acute, 10.0–25.0 × 0.5–2.0 mm. **Peduncle** naked, 10–30 mm long and 0.2–0.5 mm diameter at flowering, elongating to 25–45 mm at fruiting. **Involucral bracts** ovate to oblong, obtuse and fimbriate at apex, 1–1.5 mm long. **Rays** c. 8–12, white, 0.5–2.0 mm long. **Disc** yellowish green. **Achenes** obovoid-oblong, compressed, eglandular, 1.0–1.5 mm long; pappus usually of few bristles c. 0.1 mm long, sometimes 0 in mature achenes.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily distinguished from all other species of *Brachyscome*, except *B. humilis* by the mostly entire linear to narrowly linear-spathulate leaves, and annual growth habit. From *B. humilis* it differs by its ecology (lake margins vs alpine snow banks), strict annual growth habit, and smaller flowers with much shorter ray florets.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Lake Te Anau, Lake Manapouri, Mavora Lakes).

HABITAT

Inhabiting the short turf that develops along lake margins as well as gravelly ground on exposed lake shores. Its habitats are those which are exposed only briefly during summer; being otherwise flooded for most of the year

THREATS

Extreme, narrow-range endemic of marginal turf that is extremely vulnerable to changes in lake water levels. Indications are that, although widespread it is not common at any particular site.

GENUS

Brachyscome

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Brachyscome linearis (Petrie) Druce

SYNONYMS

Lagenifera linearis Petrie



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ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November–January

FRUITING

December–April

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown in a pot that is kept partially submerged in a tub of water. Not an especially attractive or interesting species.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

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

linearis: Linear (leaves)

NVS CODE

BRALIN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 18$

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, DP, RR, Sp

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: RR, Sp, St

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Critical | Qualifiers: DPT, NR, OL, RR 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>.

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ. 1988. Flora of New Zealand, Volume IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Christchurch, NZ. 1365 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Description from Webb et al. (1988)

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NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Brachyscome linearis* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachyscome-linearis/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

25 May 2026