

Brachyscome linearis

SYNONYMS

Lagenifera linearis Petrie

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Brachyscome linearis (Petrie) Druce

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

BRALIN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Range Restricted

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

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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

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.



South Mavora Lake. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.



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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.

FLOWERING

November–January

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

FRUITING

December–April

LIFE CYCLE

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.

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.

ETYMOLOGY

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

linearis: Linear (leaves)

ATTRIBUTION

Description from Webb et al. (1988)

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.

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/>