

# Brachyscome longiscapa

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

Brachyscome longiscapa G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

BRALON

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Data Deficient

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A small, perennial rosette forming herb with petiolate, dark green leaves with entire or sparingly lobed margins. The white and yellow flowers are composite and daisy like.

## DISTRIBUTION

South Island: Owen Range (Kahurangi National Park), then more common in inland South Canterbury and North Otago, extending as far south as northern Southland

## HABITAT

Montane to high alpine. Mostly found in tussock grassland and on rock outcrops



Photographer: John Barkla



Limestone.

## FEATURES

The plant is a perennial rosette forming herb. The leaves are spatulate, or cuneately narrowed to a winged petiole, and ovate to obovate, mostly entire, sometimes with 1 to 6 pairs of shallow lobes. The leaf tips are obtuse to subacute. The leaves are glabrous, but sometimes with few hairs on upper surface and with many stalked glandular hairs on lower surface and margin. The leaves are between 12mm and 60mm (usually between 30mm and 60mm) in length and between 3mm and 15mm (usually between 7mm and 15mm) in width. The peduncles are usually leafless, sometimes with 1 scale-like leaf, and usually sparsely to moderately clothed in glandular hairs at least near capitulum, but rarely glabrous. The peduncles are between 50mm and 200mm (usually between 120mm and 200mm) in length, and between 0.5mm and 1.2mm in diameter at flowering, extending up to 300mm in length at fruiting. The involucre bracts are lanceolate to elliptic-oblong in shape, and obtuse to acute and fimbriate at their apex. The involucre bracts are glandular hairy and between 3mm and 6mm (usually between 4mm and 6mm) in length. The ray florets are numerous and usually white, sometimes tinged pink on the reverse side, and are between 5mm and 8 mm long. The disc florets are greenish yellow. The achenes are obovoid, compressed, and eglandular, and are between 1.5mm and 2mm long. These have a pappus of a few bristles, between 0.1mm and 0.3mm long. (Description adapted from Webb et al., 1988)

## SIMILAR TAXA

The species is most similar to *B. lucens* which also has entire leaves, but *B. lucens* is only found on a few limestone hills in eastern Marlborough and is not sympatric with *B. longiscapa*. *Brachyscome sinclairii* can be similar looking and is sometimes sympatric with *B. longiscapa*. While entire-leaved specimens are sometimes found in *B. sinclairii*, and lobed-leaved specimens in *B. longiscapa*, *B. longiscapa* can usually be readily distinguished by its entire or sparingly toothed leaf form and by its long thin peduncles.

The species is also similar in appearance to some species of *Lagenophora*, but as most of these are not alpine species it is only likely to be sympatric with *L. cuneata*, which differs from *B. longiscapa* by having significantly smaller and shorter ray florets, and leaves that are notched rather than lobed.

## FLOWERING

October to April (Webb et al., 1988)

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## LIFE CYCLE

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

## SUBSTRATE

On substrates including greywacke, schist, marble, ultramafic rocks and others

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

Some plants resembling *B. longiscapa* from Otago and Southland have entire leaves but much shorter peduncles than typical of *B. longiscapa*, and it is unclear where these entities sit in relation to existing species. Some regard them as variants of *B. sinclairii* and others lump them in with *B. longiscapa*.

## ATTRIBUTION

Page updated by Rowan Hindmarsh-Walls (29 May 2022)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Simpson, G.; Thomson, J. S. 1943: Notes on Some New Zealand Plants and Descriptions of New Species. Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand 73: 155–171.

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.

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Botany Division DSIR, Christchurch.

## MORE INFORMATION

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