

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

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

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

Endemic. New Zealand: 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.



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Limestone. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 26/01/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial rosette forming herb. **Leaves** spatulate, or cuneately narrowed to a winged petiole, and ovate to obovate, mostly entire, between 12 mm and 60 mm (usually between 30 mm and 60 mm) long and between 3 mm and 15 mm (usually between 7 mm and 15 mm) wide, sometimes with 1–6 pairs of shallow lobes, glabrous but sometimes with few hairs on upper surface and with many stalked glandular hairs on lower surface and margin; leaf tips obtuse to subacute. **Peduncles** usually leafless, sometimes with 1 scale-like leaf, and usually sparsely to moderately clothed in glandular hairs at least near capitulum, but rarely glabrous, between 50 mm and 200 mm (usually between 120 mm and 200 mm) long, and between 0.5 mm and 1.2 mm in diameter at flowering, extending up to 300 mm long at fruiting. **Involucral bracts** lanceolate to elliptic-oblong and obtuse to acute and fimbriate at their apex, glandular hairy and between 3 mm and 6 mm (usually between 4 mm and 6 mm) long. **Ray florets** numerous and usually white, sometimes tinged pink on the reverse side, and are between 5 mm and 8 mm long. **Disc florets** greenish yellow. **Achenes** obovoid, compressed, eglandular, between 1.5 mm and 2 mm long, with a pappus of a few bristles, between 0.1 mm and 0.3 mm 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–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 papys 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 JS. 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.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/periodicals/TPRSNZ1943-73.2.12.14>.

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.

MORE INFORMATION

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