Brachyscome lucens

COMMON NAMES
Ward Beach daisy

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DPR, DPT, OL
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION
Daisy of calcareous substrates with narrowly attenuate, entire linear-spathulate leaves with strongly recurved leaf margins and indistinct petioles, upper surface mid-green, glossy.

FLOWER COLOURS
White, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Perennial herb, stoloniferous, stolons up to 5.0 mm diam., forming clumps of few to multiple rosettes. **Leaves** 15–40 × 4–8 mm, linear-spathulate to narrowly obovate, glabrous, coriaceous, glossy, green and sometimes suffused with purple, sparse glandular hairs at base, amphistomatic, midrib immersed above, midrib and laterals ridged beneath, gradually narrowing to v-shaped winged petiole; apex obtuse to rounded; margin entire, recurved, more-or-less irregular in outline; base attenuate; alternate on stolons, or clustered and forming rosettes on short lateral shoots. **Peduncles** 1.7–13.0 cm long, 1.0–1.8 mm wide, 1 per rosette; hairs short, stalked, glandular, dense and shorter below capitulum; bracts absent. **Flowers** 20–25 mm wide when open. **Receptacle** c. 2.5 × 1.5 mm, subconical, alveolate, glabrous. **Involucre** 5–8 mm wide; bracts 15–25, 1–2–(3) rows; outer bracts 4.0–4.6 mm long, 1.0–1.2 mm wide, oblong-elliptic, green suffused with red, densely to moderately glandular, apex obtuse; inner bracts smaller, 2.3–3.3 mm long, sparsely glandular or glabrous, margins hyaline, fimbriate, green suffused with purple. **Ray florets** 25–35, female; corolla limb 5.9–7.8 mm long, 1.3–1.5 mm wide, white with very pale purple-pink flush beneath, base attenuate to cuneate, apex obtuse to subacute; corolla tube 0.9–1.1 mm long, with sparse glandular hairs; ovary 1.4–1.7 mm long, glabrous, smooth; style 1.7–2.0 mm long, whitish-green; stigma 2-fid, arms 0.6–0.8 mm long, emergent from corolla. **Disc florets** 38–41, hermaphrodite; corolla 2.4–2.7 mm long, c. 0.7 mm wide, yellow, sparsely glandular, 5-lobed, stylar tube c. 0.4 mm long; filaments 1.5–1.7 mm long, anthers c. 0.3 mm long, basifixed; ovary 1.2–1.4 mm long, glabrous, smooth; style 1.9–2.1 mm long, whitish-green; stigma 2-fid, arms c. 0.5 mm long, emergent from corolla. **Cypsela** 2.5–3.0 mm long, 0.9–1.0 mm wide, narrowly obovate to obovate-elliptic, glabrous, smooth, compressed, light brown or yellow-brown, biconvex, apex rounded, base attenuate, margin with obtuse rib; pappus corona of few, scattered, erect bristles, c. 0.05 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA
Brachyscome lucens is distinguished from other New Zealand species of *Brachyscome* in having simple, entire and glossy leaves, with strongly recurved margins and apices. Plants have been confused with *Brachyscome longiscapa* which has predominantly entire leaves, but sometimes plants occur with a few weakly toothed leaves; in this species the leaves are broader with obtuse bases, a distinct petiole, matt upper surface, yellow-green or brown-green colour, and flat or upturned margins. *Brachyscome lucens* is associated with widespread and common *B. sinclairii* which differs in having distinctly lobed/toothed leaves. Hybrids between these two species have been collected.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Marlborough—Flaxbourne River mouth and Ward Beach).

HABITAT
Restricted to limestone outcrop where it grows on ledges, stable stony ground, and stony colluvium, Usually in shaded and/or moist sites.

THREATS
As *Brachyscome* (a) (WELT SP010278; Ward), *B. lucens* has been assessed as Threatened, Nationally Critical A(3) by de Lange et al. (2018). The total area of occupancy of the species is ≤ 1 hectare. The qualifiers OL (one location) and DP (data poor) apply as the species is only known from limestone outcrops near Ward Beach, on the north side of Flaxbourne River mouth. Data poor refers the lack of population trend data.

GENUS
Brachyscome

FAMILY
Asteraceae

AUTHORITY
Brachyscome lucens Molloy et Heenan

SYNONYMS
None - first described in 2019

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
Unknown.

FRUITING
Unknown.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Not known from cultivation

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

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 18

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS
2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, OL
Jump to current conservation status

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
de Lange PJ, Rolfe JR, Barkla JW, Courtney SP, Champion PD, Perrie LR, Beadel SM, Ford KA, Breitwieser I, Schonberger I, Hindmarsh-Walls R, Heenan PB, Ladley K. 2018. Conservation status of New Zealand indigenous vascular plants, 2017. *New Zealand Threat Classification Series 22*. Department of Conservation, Wellington, NZ. 82 p. https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/science-and-technical/nztcs22entire.pdf
Heenan PB, Molloy BPJ. 2019. Five new and Nationally Threatened taxa of *Brachyscome*, *Cardamine*, *Convolvulus*, *Geranium* and *Ranunculus* obligate to vulnerable limestone habitats, eastern South Island, New Zealand. *Phytotaxa 415(1)*: 32–48. https://doi.org/ 10.11646/phytotaxa.415.1.2

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (5 September 2019). Description from Heenan & Molloy (2019).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachyscome-lucens/

PDF DATE

27 May 2026