

Brachyscome montana

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Brachyscome montana G.Simpson

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

BRAMNT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Data Deficient

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Data Deficient

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A small perennial herb with petiolate, fleshy and hairy leaves, generally with lobed margins. The white and yellow flowers are composite and daisy-like.

DISTRIBUTION

South Island. The exact extent of this species is unclear but it is known from inland South Canterbury and Central Otago mountains.

HABITAT

Montane to alpine grassland and herbfield.



In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/07/2007, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/07/2007, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants branching closely to form small dense clumps. Rootstock short, 2-3 mm in diameter with many slender roots. Leaves radical, 2-3 cm long, 4-8 mm wide, linear obovate-spathulate, rather fleshy, greyish green, surfaces and margins closely dotted with small stiff glandular hairs. Petiole as long or twice as long as the leaf blade, flat above, grooved and rounded beneath. Leaf blades differing in shape and in the division of their margins, rounded or narrowed to the petiole, sometimes almost entire, more usually with 2-7 irregularly arranged, conspicuous, rounded lobes. Scapes 4-6 cm. long, rather stout, pale brown, naked or with a single linear, acute bract, glandular hairy like the leaves. Flowerheads 1 cm diameter, involucral bracts 5 mm. long, in 3 series, linear oblong, acute, glandular hairy, with scarious tips. Ray florets 5 mm long, in 2 series, linear obovate, rounded at the tip, much recurved, white. Disc florets numerous, yellowish.

(Description adapted from Simpson, 1945.)

SIMILAR TAXA

Species in the genus *Brachyscome* are not well-defined and can be hard to distinguish from each other. In the case of *B. montana*, the diversiform, greyish green, glandular hairy and somewhat fleshy leaves are features that can be used to separate the species from others of the genus.

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily propagated from plant divisions.

Plants should not be removed from public conservation areas without a permit.

SUBSTRATE

Schist, greywacke

ETYMOLOGY

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

montana: From the Latin mons 'mountain', meaning growing on mountains

ATTRIBUTION

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REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Simpson, G. 1945: Notes on Some New Zealand Plants and Descriptions of New Species (No. 4). *Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand* 75: 187-202.

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.

MORE INFORMATION

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