Brachyscome montana

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

SIMPLIFIED 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.

FLOWER COLOURS
White, Yellow

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.

Old Man Range. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 21/12/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.

Old Man Range. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 21/12/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.

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.

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.

SUBSTRATE DETAILS
Schist, greywacke

GENUS
Brachyscome

FAMILY
Asteraceae

AUTHORITY
Brachyscome montana G.Simpson

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
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.

ETYMOLOGY
brachyscome: From Greek brachys 'short' and comus 'hair', refers to the lack of papys on the fruit
montana: From the Latin mons 'mountain', meaning growing on mountains

NVS CODE
BRAMNT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 18

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Data Deficient
2012 | Data Deficient
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, NR, NStr, NS, RR, Sp, St
Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

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.

ATTRIBUTION
Page edited by Rowan Hindmarsh-Walls (28 May 2022)

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachyscome-montana/

PDF DATE
25 May 2026