

# Brachyscome radicata

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

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## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Found in a wide range of habitats this small perennial herb has petiolate, generally bright green leaves with lobed margins. The white and yellow flowers are composite and daisy like.

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The species is a perennial rosette or sparingly branched herb. **Leaves** spatulate or cuneately narrowed to a winged petiole and obovate to oblong, with between (1)–3–4–(6) pairs of rounded or sharp teeth or lobes (seldom lyrate-pinnatifid); glabrous or sparsely to densely clothed in short or long-stalked glandular hairs on both surfaces and leaf margins; 12–60–(120) × 3–20 mm. **Peduncles** often have up to 3 leaves along their length, these becoming reduced and scale-like higher up the peduncle; sometimes naked or sparsely to densely clothed in glandular hairs especially near capitulum; 0.6–2 mm diameter, (25)–50–120–(150) mm long at flowering; these can extend to 150–230 mm long at fruiting. **Involucral bracts** elliptic-oblong, obtuse to subacute and often fimbriate at their apex, and usually glandular at least near base, rarely glabrous, 2.5–4 mm long. **Ray florets** numerous, usually white, rarely flushed with pink or lilac, 5–8 mm long. **Disc florets** yellow. **Achenes** obovoid-oblong in shape, compressed or subterete, glandular, 2.5–4 mm long. **Pappus** a few bristles 0.1–0.5 mm long. (Description adapted from Webb et al. 1988)

## SIMILAR TAXA

Species in the genus *Brachyscome* are not well defined and can be hard to distinguish from each other. *Brachyscome radicata* is most similar to *B. sinclairii* and *B. montana*, with some features overlapping with both these two species. It can be distinguished from *B. sinclairii* by the glandular achenes, the more branched habit, and the leaves which generally have fewer teeth with these being close to the apex of the leaf. *Brachyscome sinclairii* has strongly compressed, eglandular achenes, is less branched and generally has more leaf teeth. *Brachyscome montana* is apparently distinct from both *B. radicata* and *B. sinclairii* due to its diversiform, greyish green, glandular hairy and somewhat fleshy leaves, but both *B. radicata* and *B. sinclairii* can have glandular hairy leaves, so this is not a good distinguishing trait.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (from the central North Island south), South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

## HABITAT

The species is found in a wide range of habitats from sea level to high alpine zone. Habitats include coastal herbfield, shrubland, forest margins and clearings, grassland, herbfield, cliffs, banks and river edges.

## SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Many rock types and substrates including peat, alluvium, greywacke, schist, sandstone, and others.

## THREATS

Not Threatened, uncommon in the North Island

## GENUS

Brachyscome

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

Brachyscome radicata Hook.f.

## SYNONYMS

Brachyscome radicata var. polita (Kirk) Allan; Brachyscome radicata var. dubia (Kirk) Allan; Brachyscome odorata Hook.f.; Brachyscome radicata var. radicata Hook.f.; Brachyscome radicata var. thomsonii (Kirk) Allan; Brachyscome radicata var. membranifolia (Kirk) Allan

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

(October)–December–March–(May) (Webb et al., 1988)

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from rooted pieces and fresh seed. Grows very well in a range of climates but in drought prone areas prefers a shaded site or permanently damp (not saturated) soil. An attractive and rather variable daisy, which could benefit from some cultivar selection.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**radicata:** Long-rooted

## NVS CODE

BRARAD

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 90

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: TL 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

- Hooker JD. 1853. The Botany of the Antarctic Voyage of H.M. Discovery Ships *Erebus* and *Terror* in the Years 1839–1843, under the command of Captain Sir James Clark Ross. II. Flora Novae-Zelandiae. Part I. Flowering plants. Lovell Reeve, London, UK.
- 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.
- 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.

## ATTRIBUTION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

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