

Colobanthus hookeri

COMMON NAMES

Hooker's colobanthus

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CI, DPT, RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plant forming compact cushion 20–50 mm diameter, branches many and close, 20–30 mm long, leafy throughout. **Leaves** closely imbricated, incurved towards stem, rigid and shining; sheaths mostly hidden; blades 4–5 mm long, subulate, tapering from base to short acicular tip; border and midrib distinguishable in very young leaves when dry. **Peduncles** about = leaves. **Flowers** 3.0–3.5 mm long; sepals usually 5, broader than leaves, ovate-subulate, pouched at base, tapering to very short acicular tip, midrib forming flattish keel; capsule lobes about = sepals.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine, usually on bare or sparsely vegetated rock.

THREATS

A Naturally Uncommon, range-restricted species. There are no known threats. Both the Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku are Nature Reserves and part of a World Heritage Park. All access is strictly controlled by the New Zealand Department of Conservation.

GENUS

Colobanthus

FAMILY

Caryophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Colobanthus hookeri Cheeseman

SYNONYMS

Colobanthus benthamianus Cheeseman; had also been confused with *Colobanthus subulatus* Hook. f.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

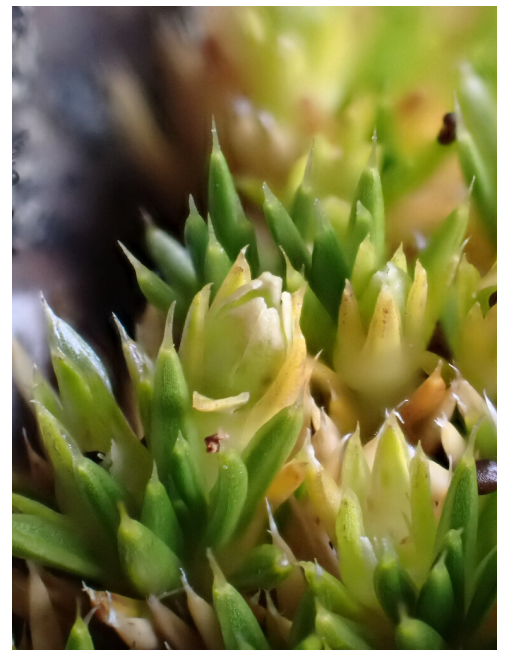
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No



Auckland Island tops, above 300 m elevation, January 2023, Strannik Auckland Island Expedition. Photographer: Alex Fergus, Date taken: 31/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Auckland Island tops, above 300 m elevation, January 2023, Strannik Auckland Island Expedition. Photographer: Alex Fergus, Date taken: 28/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FLOWERING

December

FRUITING

January

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Winged seeds are dispersed by water and possibly also wind and ballistic projection (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown in cultivation.

ETYMOLOGY

colobanthus: Mutilated flower with no petals

hookeri: Named after Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker (born 1817) - a world famous botanist who travelled on the Antarctic expedition of 1839 under the command of Sir James Ross and wrote "Handbook of New Zealand Flora" published in 1864-67 describing many specimens sent to Kew by collectors. He died in 1911 and has a memorial stone at Westminster Abbey London.

NVS CODE

COLHOO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.

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>.

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from: Allan, H.H. (1961).

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/colobanthus-hookeri/>

PDF DATE

07 June 2026