

Craspedia argentea

COMMON NAMES

Pisa Flats woollyhead

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Rosette-forming herb with silvery grey, elliptic, obovate, spatulate to oblanceolate leaves. Leaf hairs appressed to floccose arranged in a wavy in pattern. Flower heads (capitula) on stems up to 130 mm tall. Flower head yellowish-white, with dark red-purple anthers.

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow, White

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Central Otago, Pisa Flats, Mahaka Katia Scientific Reserve).

HABITAT

Grows on sparsely vegetated gravel outwash terraces.

THREATS

Craspedia argentea as *Craspedia* (a) (CHR 511522; Clutha River) has been assessed as 'Threatened/Nationally Critical' (Criteria A1, Population <250 mature individuals, with a decline rate of 10%–30%), qualified 'DP' (Data Poor), 'OL' (One Location) by the New Zealand Indigenous Vascular Plant Threat Listing Panel (de Lange et al. 2018). Since then the qualifiers for the New Zealand Threat Classification System manual 2008 have been revised and expanded (see Rolfe et al. 2021). Using the revised qualifiers Barkla (2021) recommended that the qualifiers OL (One Location), DPT (Data Poor: Trend) and CR (Conservation Research Needed) be applied because of restriction of *C. argentea* to Mahaka Katia Scientific Reserve, the lack of adequate trend data, and the need for research to better understand the causes of decline and solutions for recovery (see also Breitwieser & Ford 2022). These adjustments have yet to be ratified by the New Zealand Indigenous Vascular Plant Threat Listing Panel.

GENUS

Craspedia

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Craspedia argentea Breitw. et K.A.Ford

SYNONYMS

None - first described in 2022.



Developing glomerules at Mahaka Katia Scientific Reserve. Photographer: John Barkla, Date taken: 03/09/2005, Licence: CC BY.



Juvenile plant growing out of *Raoulia australis* cushion at Mahaka Katia Scientific Reserve. Photographer: John Barkla, Date taken: 22/11/2020, Licence: CC BY.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Early October – mid November.

FRUITING

Late November through December.

EXTRA INFORMATION

See brief article in July 2022 *Trilepidea* [Four new species of woollyhead \(*Craspedia*\) described from the eastern South Island](#) (p. 2).

ETYMOLOGY

craspedia: *Craspedia* is named for the Greek 'Kraspedon', meaning an edge, hem or border, because of the woolly fringes of the leaves of the type species.

argentea: Silvery

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, OL

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, NStr, OL, RE, 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

- Barkla J. 2021. Understanding the conservation status of Central Otago dryland plants believed to be imminently threatened with extinction. *Contract Report No. 6691934*. Prepared for the Department of Conservation, Dunedin.
- Breitwieser I, Ford KA. 2022. Four new species of *Craspedia* (Compositae/Asteraceae, Gnaphalieae) from the South Island of New Zealand, all characterised by dark red-purple anthers. *New Zealand Journal of Botany*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2022.2095919>
- de Lange PJ, Rolfe JR, Barkla JW, Courtney SP, Champion PD, Perrie LR, Beadel SM, Ford KA, Breitwieser I, Schönberger 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>
- Rolfe J, Maken T, Tait A. 2021. Supplement to the New Zealand threat classification system manual 2008: new qualifiers and amendments to qualifier definitions. Department of Conservation, Wellington, NZ. 9 p. <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/science-and-technical/nztcs-supplement-2021.pdf>.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 17 July 2022.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/craspedia-argentea/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026