

Craspedia rugosa

COMMON NAMES

Lake Heron woollyhead

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DPT, OL

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Rosette-forming herb with elliptic, narrowly elliptic, obovate, spatulate to oblanceolate, rugose dark-red mottled leaves which are covered by a thin to moderately dense, appressed, hairy covering. The flower stems are up to 76 mm tall, and the flower heads (capitula) are pale yellow with dark red-purple anthers.

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Craspedia lanata* from which it differs by the rugose rosette leaves which are shorter than 50 mm, dark-red mottled, and covered with a thin to moderately dense, appressed, lanate indumentum. The florets also differ in that they have a pale yellow corolla with dark red-purple anthers (Breitwieser & Ford 2022).

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Canterbury Plains). Currently known from one site at Ōtūwharekai / Ashburton Lakes wetland (Lake Heron). Probably once more widespread on the plains as there is an historic collection from Oxford (Breitwieser & Ford 2022).

HABITAT

Known only from dry, short tussockland on a stable upper fan surface at 720 m a.s.l. Associating in habitats dominated by *Racomitrium geronticum* Müll.Hal. (incorrectly referred to in New Zealand by the name *Racomitrium lanuginosum* (Hedw.) Brid., Juan B. Larraín pers. comm. 6 June 2022), where it is also found growing with *Festuca novae-zelandiae*, and sweet vernal (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) (Breitwieser & Ford 2022).

THREATS

Craspedia rugosa as *Craspedia* (j) (CHR 516302; Lake Heron)] was 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).

GENUS

Craspedia

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Craspedia rugosa Breitw. et K.A.Ford



Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 08/01/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 16/11/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SYNONYMS

None – first described in 2022.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Early January – early February

FRUITING

Late January – late February

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.

rugosa: Wrinkled

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

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

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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>

ATTRIBUTION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

25 May 2026