

Craspedia thinicola

COMMON NAME

Kaitorete Spit woollyhead

SYNONYMS

None - first described in 2022.

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Craspedia thinicola Breitw. et K.A.Ford

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22 (CHR 483546; Dawson 1995)

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2022 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: OL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: OL

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Rosette-forming herb with silvery grey, elliptic, obovate to oblanceolate leaves held flat to ground. Leaf hairs arranged in a felted in a granular pattern. Flowers heads on stems up to 130 mm tall. Flower head (capitula) white or yellow with dark red-purple anthers.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand, Canterbury, Kaitorete Spit.

HABITAT

Craspedia thinicola is endemic to stable deflation hollows, where it grows in association with *Ficinia spiralis*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Rumex acetosella*, and *Raoulia australis* (Breitwieser & Ford 2022).

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Craspedia lanata* from which it differs by the rosette leaves which have dense, appressed, lanate indumentum, arranged in a felted granular pattern, and whose florets have white or yellowish corolla, and dark red-purple anthers (Breitwieser & Ford 2022).

FLOWERING

Mid-November to mid-December.

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow



Kaitorete Spit. Photographer: Alice Shanks, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Kaitorete Spit. Photographer: Alice Shanks, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FRUITING

Late November to late December.

THREATS

Craspedia thinicola, as *Craspedia* (c) CHR 529115; Kaitorete] has been assessed as 'Threatened/Nationally Endangered' (Criteria A2, Population ≤ 5 subpopulations, ≤ 300 mature individuals in the largest subpopulation, with a decline rate of 10%–50%), qualified 'OL' (One Location) by de Lange et al. (2018). Breitwieser & Ford (2022) offer no adjustments to that threat status.

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.

thinicola: Derived from Latin, for 'dune' and 'dweller', referring to the area of sand dunes where this species grows (Breitwieser & Ford 2022)

EXTRA INFORMATION

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

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 17 July 2022. Description from Breitwieser & Ford (2022).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Breitwieser, I.; Ford, K.A. 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*. DOI: [10.1080/0028825X.2022.2095919](https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2022.2095919)

Dawson, M.I. 1995: Contributions to a chromosome atlas of the New Zealand flora – 33. Miscellaneous species. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 33: 477–787.

de Lange, P.J.; Rolfe, J.R.; Barkla, J.W.; Courtney, S.P.; Champion, P.D.; Perrie, L.R.; Beadel, S.M.; Ford, K.A.; Breitwieser, I.; Schönberger, I.; Hindmarsh-Walls, R.; Heenan, P.B.; Ladley, K. 2018: Conservation status of New Zealand indigenous vascular plants. 2017. *New Zealand Threat Classification Series* 22: 1–82. Department of Conservation, Wellington.

MORE INFORMATION

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