

# Craspedia thinicola

## COMMON NAMES

Kaitorete Spit woollyhead

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: CI, CD, OL

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## SIMPLIFIED 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.

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## 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).

## 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).

## THREATS

*Craspedia thinicola*, as *Craspedia* (c) CHR 529115; Kaitorete] has been assessed as 'Threatened/Nationally Endangered' (Criteria A2, Population  $\leq 5$  subpopulations,  $\leq 300$  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.

## GENUS

Craspedia

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Craspedia thinicola* Breitw. et K.A.Ford

## SYNONYMS

None - first described in 2022.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



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Kaitorete Spit. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 11/10/2014, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

Mid-November to mid-December.

## FRUITING

Late November to late 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.

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

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22 (CHR 483546; Dawson 1995)

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2022 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: OL

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: OL

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## 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.

## ATTRIBUTION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026