

Craspedia uniflora var. grandis

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, PD

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Rosette forming perennial herb with ground level pale green leaves. The spoon-shaped leaves have a somewhat woolly margin providing a white border. A single flower spike grows centrally into a compound head of white florets. When ripe the seeds become airborne via a tail similar to a badminton shuttlecock.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rosette forming rhizomatous perennial herb. **Leaves** approximately 10-15 × 2 cm, obovate-spathulate, cuneately narrowed to petiole, surfaces with sparse cottony and subhispid hairs, woolly margin narrow but distinct.

Scape bracts narrow-obovate to elliptic. **Scapes** 150-450 mm, long, 2-3 mm diameter, sparsely floccose, becoming glabrous. **Inflorescence** a solitary terminal glomerule, approximately 20 mm diameter. **Achenes** obovate, circular to oval in cross section, 1.4-1.7 mm long, densely silky-hairy, nut-brown to brown, pappus 3.2-3.5 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most likely to be confused with *Craspedia uniflora* var. *maritima*, which overlap with this species on the Southernmost parts of the Eastern Wellington Harbour. *C. uniflora* var. *grandis* when in bloom is easily distinguished as the flowers are white, compared to *C. uniflora* var. *maritima* which are yellow. The leaves are slightly different too, the woolly margin of each blade is generally not very obvious in this species, and is very obvious in *C. uniflora* var. *maritima*, a detail which can be troublesome if you are not familiar with both species.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Te Ika-a-Māui | North Island, Raukumara, Huirau, Tararua and Remutaka Ranges to Wairarapa and coastal Wellington.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane (0-800 m.a.s.l.), cliffs and escarpments, amongst rocky faces and outcrops, in damp places.

GENUS

Craspedia

FAMILY

Asteraceae



In bloom on a coastal spur, Baring Head, Wellington. Photographer: Matt Ward, Date taken: 07/01/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Floral stem bract. Photographer: Matt Ward, Date taken: 21/12/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.

AUTHORITY

Craspedia uniflora var. *grandis* Allan

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November - January.

FRUITING

January - April.

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.

uniflora: Single-flowered

grandis: Big

NVS CODE

CRAUVG

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, PD

2012 | Data Deficient

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[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.

Webb CJ & Simpson MJA. 2001. *Seeds of New Zealand Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons*. Christchurch: Manuka Press. pg. 104.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by MD Ward (March 2nd 2026). Description from Allan (1961) and Webb & Simpson (2001).

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/craspedia-uniflora-var-grandis/>

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