

# Craspedia uniflora var. maritima

## COMMON NAMES

woollyhead

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: Sp, PD, RR

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## 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 distinct woolly margin providing a white border. A single flower spike grows centrally into a compound head of yellow florets. When ripe the seeds become airborne via a tail similar to a badminton shuttlecock.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rosette forming rhizomatous perennial herb. **Leaves** approximately 6-15 × 2-4 cm, broad-obovate, shortly apiculate, sparsely clad in cottony and short sub-hispid hairs, pale green upper surface paler underside, very viscid, woolly margin conspicuous. **Scapae bracts** ovate-lanceolate, up to 40 mm long. **Scapes** up to 300 mm or more tall, scape stem approximately 3 mm in diameter, strongly ribbed, sparsely clad in cottony hairs. **Inflorescence** a solitary terminal glomerule, 25-30 mm diameter; florets yellow. **Achenes** obovate, circular to oval in cross section, 2.2-2.7 mm long, densely silky-hairy, nut-brown to brown, pappus 3.5-4.5 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Most likely to be confused with *Craspedia uniflora* var. *grandis*, 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 flower heads are white, compared to *C. uniflora* var. *maritima* which are yellow. The leaves are slightly different too, the woolly margin of each blade is very obvious in this species, and not as obvious in *C. uniflora* var. *grandis*, a detail which can be troublesome if you are not familiar with both species.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Te Ika-a-Māui | North Island, coastal Wellington mostly in the West. Te Waipounamu | South Island potentially on the West coast, historically Ocean bech, Oamaru.

## HABITAT

Coastal (0-100 m.a.s.l.) cliffs and escarpments amongst rocky faces.

## GENUS

Craspedia



In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 15/03/2007, Licence: CC BY.



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## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Craspedia uniflora* var. *maritima* Allan

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

(August-) December - February (-April).

## FRUITING

January - April (-August).

## 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

**maritima:** From the Latin mare 'sea', meaning growing on the sea shore

## NVS CODE

CRAVMR

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

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-maritima/>

## PDF DATE

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