Drosera auriculata

COMMON NAME
sundew

SYNONYMS
Drosera circinervia Colenso, D. stylosa Colenso, Drosera peltata subsp. auriculata (Planch.) B.J.Conn

FAMILY
Droseraceae

AUTHORITY
Drosera auriculata Planch.

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON
No

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE
DROAUR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 32

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION
Indigenous. North and South Islands to about south Canterbury, northern Otago and south Westland/ Present in Australia

HABITAT
Coastal to montane, on recently exposed and naturally open ground, clay pans, in low scrub, on lava. Often abundant following fire.
FEATURES
Tuberous herb. Plants usually olive-green in exposed locations, rarely richly maroon; tuber ovoid to globose, up to 10 × 8 mm; surface white to red, often in a papery sheath; vertical stolon 20–80 mm long. Stem erect, usually simple, sometimes shortly branched, 90–600 mm long, glabrous. Leaves often in a flat basal rosette and cauline; basal leaves 4–19, the lamina ovate, elliptic, orbicular or reniform, 1.8–3.5 × 2–6 mm wide on a linear petiole 5.0–17.0 × 1.2 mm wide; 9–36 cauline leaves alternate, the lamina crescentic, 1.5–5.5 × 2.0–5.5 mm, with acute angles, on petiole 3–23 mm long. Inflorescence a 1-sided raceme 2–14-flowered; peduncle usually 6–50 mm long, but up to 80 mm; pedicels 1–14 mm long. Sepals 2.0–6.0 × 0.9–2.6 mm, ovate, elliptic and rarely obovate, glabrous with an entire to irregularly serrulate margin. Petals 3.0–10.0 × 1.5–5 mm, white or pink, obovate, cuneate, apex emarginate, sometimes obtuse and rarely truncate. Styles 3, 0.6–1.4 mm long, divided into a total of c.15–30 cylindrical segments. Seeds 0.8–1.6 mm long, cylindrical with a shallowly reticulated surface.

SIMILAR TAXA
Drosera auriculata could only be confused only with D. hookeri, with which it often grows in Northland and from which it differs by the glabrous rather than hairy sepals and cylindrical rather than ovoid to arachniform (i.e. peanut-shaped) shallowly reticulated seeds (rather than deeply pitted seeds) which are > 1 mm long, rather than 0.5–8.0 mm long. Sometimes the seeds of Drosera hookeri can be cylindrical, and so a little like those of D. auriculata, but in these cases they can be distinguished from D. auriculata by their smaller size and deeply pitted testa.

FLOWERING
September - February

FLOWER COLOURS
Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

FRUITING
October - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Can be grown in pots from seed or from the small overwintering bulbils. Quite easily grown in this way. In suitable conditions it can naturalise itself.

ETYMOLOGY
drosera: Dewy
auriculata: Small-eared

WHERE TO BUY
Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION
Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (22 March 2012). Description adapted from Gibson et al. (2012).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION
Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): Drosera auriculata Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/drosera-auriculata/ (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION