

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

Dicotyledonous Herbs 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.



Drosera auriculata. Photographer: Wayne Bennett



Stokes Valley. Oct 2004. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

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

Gibson, R.; Conn, B.J.; Bruhl, J.J. 2012: Morphological evaluation of the *Drosera peltata* complex (Droseraceae). *Australian Systematic Botany* 25: 49–80.

CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/drosera-auriculata/>