

# Euphrasia drucei

## COMMON NAMES

eyebright

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, OL, Sp

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb sometimes arising from woody stock; stems generally woody at base, often prostrate and rooting in lower parts, branches erect, 30-100 mm tall, generally evenly pubescent. Leaves sessile, usually close-set, spreading, 3-10 x 3-6 mm, obovate to obovate-cuneate to suborbicular, usually broadest some distance below tip, subequally 3-lobed at tip or rather evenly 3-5-crenate or -toothed, margins thickened and sometimes glossy. Flowers few at tips of branches, pedicels short, hidden. Calyx 6-9 mm. long, glabrous or nearly so, unevenly divided 1/4-1/2 way; lobes obtuse to subacute, margins and midribs thickened. Corolla white, up to 20 mm long and diameter; tube longer than calyx; lower lip little longer than upper, lobes 5-8 mm broad, emarginate. Anthers red-brown, margins hairy, awns usually unequal. Capsule less than or equal to calyx, 5-6 x 3-4 mm, oval to oblong, glabrous; seeds many, 1.5-2 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Related to *Euphrasia monroi* and *Euphrasia laingii* but differing from both in the shape of the leaves; in the crowded leaves and short congested inflorescence, it resembles more *E. monroi* but is a very much smaller plant. It has sometimes been confused with small subalpine forms of *E. cuneata* with which it grows but can be most easily distinguished by the shape of the corolla, the shorter glabrous capsule and lack of small leafy axillary branchlets. Similar small plants have been collected in North-west Nelson, but these are still of uncertain position.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, Tararua Range.

## HABITAT

Abundant in boggy or open places in subalpine tussock or herbfield.

## GENUS

*Euphrasia*

## FAMILY

Orobanchaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Euphrasia drucei* Ashwin

## SYNONYMS

Previously known as *Euphrasia revoluta* Hook. f.



Mount Holdsworth. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

(November-) December – January (-February).

## FRUITING

January – February (-March).

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Seeds is dispersed by wind and possibly water and ballistic projection (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## NEW ZEALAND BOTANICAL HISTORY NOTE

For a brief biography of AP (Tony) Druce, for whom this plant is named, see this article in [Te Ara - The Encyclopedia of New Zealand](#). Hundreds of Tony's famed plant lists can be found [here](#) and back-issues of regional Botanical Society Journals which he contributed can be accessed [here](#).

## ETYMOLOGY

**euphrasia:** Eye-medicine

**drucei:** Named after Anthony (Tony) Peter Druce, one of New Zealand's most respected field botanist (1920-1999).

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, OL, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H. H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Volume 1. Wellington: Government Printer. Page 853.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora.

Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11: 285-309

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by M.D. Ward (3 November 2020). Description adapted from Allan (1961).

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/euphrasia-drucei/>

## PDF DATE

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