# Euphrasia dyeri

## COMMON NAMES
creeping eyebright

## BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened
Jump to previous conservation statuses

## CATEGORY
Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS
White, Yellow

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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Delicate succulent annual herb sometimes flowering when less than 10 mm high, occasionally much elongated with branched stems up to 100 mm long; branches usually flattened with membranous wings, usually laxly ascending, occasionally rooting at nodes but not mat-forming, glabrous or with sparse flattened jointed hairs. Leaves sessile, 4-6 (-8) x (2-) 4-6 mm, upper ½ to ⅓ digitately divided into (3-) 5-7 acute to acuminate, linear, subequal, spreading segments 1.5-3 mm long, cuneate and subsheathing at base, membranous when dry, glabrous or setose on margins and tips, occasionally glandular hairs present. Flowers, few towards the tips of the branches on flattened membranous pedicels up to 20 mm long. Calyx 4-5 (-7) mm long, divided 1/3-1/2 way; lobes lanceolate, acute, glabrous or setose on margins and tips. Corolla white, 8-15 mm long; tube slender, up to 8 mm, much longer than calyx; lobes of lower lip up to 2 mm wide, entire. Anthers yellow to golden brown, margins glabrous or nearly so, awns slender, almost equal. Capsule longer than calyx, oval, densely setose at apex; ovules 2 per locule, seeds 0.9-1.1 mm long, segment-shaped and angled with a colliculate testa.

## SIMILAR TAXA
Morphologically similar to *Euphrasia repens*, from which it differs by being a plant of subalpine bogs, usually only slightly rooting and not mat-forming; leaves usually larger, divided up to 1/2 way into acute to acuminate subequal segments.

## DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. South and Stewart Islands, Mountains of northwest Nelson (Mount Gouland), Otago, Southland and Stewart Island; Mount Somers, Canterbury.

## HABITAT
Montane bogs up to 1500m a.s.l.

## GENUS
Euphrasia

## FAMILY
Orobanchaceae

## AUTHORITY
Euphrasia dyeri Wettst.

## TAXONOMIC NOTES
Wettstein (1896) separated his species from *E. repens* partly because he considered the 2 ovules in each locule to be apposite, not superposed as described by Hooker (1879) for *E. repens*. By 1961 the placentation had not been further investigated.
By 1961, dehisced capsules have not been seen in this species or in *E. repens*, but available material is meagre. In both species the oblong cotyledons are usually larger than the leaves and often persist through the whole life cycle, especially in very small plants.

## ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS
No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

## FLOWERING
January – March.

## FRUITING
February – April.

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Seeds is dispersed by wind and possibly water and ballistic projection (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
OBL: Obligate Wetland
Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

## ETYMOLOGY
**euphrasia**: Eye-medicine
**dyeri**: Uncertain, could be named after Robert Allen Dyer, 20th century South African botanist and taxonomist OR Sir William Turner Thiselton-Dyer, 19th century director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew

## NVS CODE
EUPDYE

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NS, NStr, RR, TL
Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Allan, H. H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Volume 1. Wellington: Government Printer. Page 858.
Hooker, J. D. 1879. Hooker's leones Plantarum. Third Series, Volume III. — London 1877-1879.
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.
Webb, C.J. and Simpson, M.J. 2001. Seeds of New Zealand gymnosperms and dicotyledons. Manuka Press.
Wettstein, R. von, 1896. Monographie der Gattung Euphrasia. Leipzig.
Wilson, H.D. 1982. Field Guide: Stewart Island Plants. Christchurch, Field Guide Publications.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by M.D. Ward (6 November 2020). Description adapted from Allan (1961).
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## MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/euphrasia-dyeri/

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026