

# Ewartiothamnus sinclairii

## COMMON NAMES

Ewartia

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

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## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial subshrub up to 0.8 m tall, much-branched from stout woody stock. Main branches c.3 mm diameter at woody base, clad in sub-appressed to floccose white tomentum, becoming glabrous. Branchlets slender, spreading to ascending, densely white-tomentose, terminated by cymose close clusters of capitula. Leaves imbricate, c.6-10 × 2 mm, spreading from sheathing base, lanceolate- to obovate-spathulate, obtuse, hardly diminishing in size to base of inflorescence, densely clad on both surfaces in white felted tomentum. Capitula c.6 × 4 mm, in clusters of c. 25 forming a head 15-20 mm diameter. Pedicels short, stout, bracts usually aristate. Involucral bracts numerous, 2-seriate; outer with floccose tomentum on back near hardened base, acute to aristate; inner less hairy, c.4 mm long, oblong, with white erect to subradiate tips. Achenes fusiform, hardly 1 mm long, glabrous or nearly so; pappus-hairs c. 3 mm long, thickened and papillose at tips, minutely scaberulous at base.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Superficially similar to *Anaphalioides* from which it differs by the conspicuous investiture of white to silvery-white hairs which cover all parts of the plant except the florets. Allan (1961) artificially aligned it with *Helichrysum* from which it differs by the thick covering of hairs and fusiform achenes.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Marlborough, where it is virtually confined to streams draining into the upper Awatere and Clarence River catchments.

## HABITAT

Steep rocky gorges, usually on dry, cliff sides overhanging streams and rivers. Occasionally on boulders within streams, or amongst short tussock on steep, rubble-strewn slopes.

## THREATS

A naturally uncommon species which is locally common within its geographically restricted range. Most populations are small, and some might be vulnerable to flooding, land slips and possibly browsing animals.

## GENUS

Ewartiothamnus

## FAMILY

Asteraceae



Tone River, Marlborough. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 10/03/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.



Tone River, Marlborough. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 10/03/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

## AUTHORITY

Ewartiothamnus sinclairii (Hook.f.) Anderb.

## SYNONYMS

Gnaphalium sinclairii Hook.f., Ewartia sinclairii (Hook.f.) Cheeseman,

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

October - February

## FRUITING

November - April

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Pappate cypselae are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and cuttings. However difficult to grow in humid climates. Does best in full sun in a free draining, deep soil.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for April 2019](#) for the full story.

## ETYMOLOGY

**sinclairii**: After Sinclair (c. 1796–1861). Colonial Secretary and naturalist.

## NVS CODE

EWASIC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I, Government Printer, Wellington.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ewartiothamnus-sinclairii/>

