

# Haastia pulvinaris var. minor

## COMMON NAME

Vegetable sheep

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Haastia pulvinaris* var. *minor* Laing

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 60$

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: RR

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Nelson, Marlborough to Otago (mostly east of the main divide)

## HABITAT

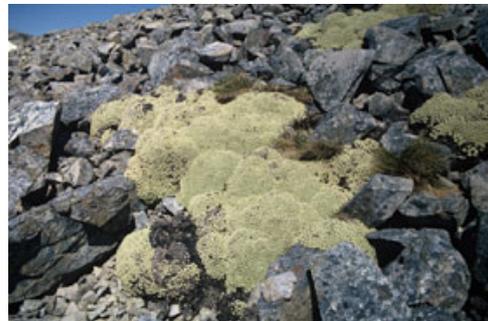
Subalpine and alpine fellfield and rocks among screens

## FEATURES

Stout perennial forming rounded very compact masses up to 1 x 1 m diameter (usually much less); branchlets with leaves < 15 mm diameter, densely compacted. Leaves c.6–8 × 4–9 mm; apices thickened and crenulate and concealed by dense brush of long tangled whitish hairs, both surfaces or underside only clad in long hairs; veins 3–15, anastomosing above. Receptacle flat or slightly convex, c.5 mm diameter. Involucral bracts linear, obtuse to acute, glabrous except at apices. Achenes compressed, linear, c.2 mm long. Pappus-hairs scarcely thickened, up to 9 mm long, strongly barbellate (especially near apices)

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Haastia pulvinaris* var. *minor* is distinguished from var. *pulvinaris* by its much smaller size (only rarely forming hummocks up to 1 x 1 m), branchlets < 15 mm diameter, and by the distinctly whitish tomentum. Both varieties are occasionally sympatric and may perhaps be better treated as species. Both varieties of *Haastia pulvinaris* could be confused with species of *Raoulia*, especially *R. bryoides*, *R. eximia* and *R. mammillaris* with which they sometimes grow. From *Raoulia*, *Haastia* is distinguished by the anther-cells which are not tailed, and by the leaves which are > 10 mm long. Recent molecular data suggests that *Haastia* is very closely allied to *Brachyglottis*.



Robert Ridge, Nelson Lakes. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Mt Robert, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

## FLOWERING

November - January

## FLOWER COLOURS

Orange, Yellow

## FRUITING

December – February

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild

## THREATS

A naturally uncommon, sparsely distributed plant of high altitude scree habitats. Although it is not threatened it is rarely common at any particular place.

## ETYMOLOGY

**haastia:** After Haast

**pulvinaris:** From the Latin pulvinar 'a cushion' and -aris 'resembling', meaning resembling a cushion i.e. convex or rather flattened

**minor:** Smaller

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/haastia-pulvinaris-var-minor/>