

Helichrysum simpsonii subsp. simpsonii

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Low growing masses of green and white stems inhabiting rocky or open areas of South Island mountains. Branches often hanging down or trailing over rock outcrops. Stems 2-3 mm wide. Leaves scale-like, variable in shape, green, embedded in whiteish fuzz. Flowers white-yellowish, in tight clusters at the tip of stems.

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

DISTRIBUTION

South Island: NW Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury, Otago and Southland

GENUS

Helichrysum

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Helichrysum simpsonii Kottaim.

SYNONYMS

Helichrysum intermedium G.Simpson, *Helichrysum intermedium* G.Simpson var. *intermedium*, *Helichrysum intermedium* var. *humile* G.Simpson

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Helichrysum simpsonii Kottaim. is a replacement name (nomen novum) for *H. intermedium* G.Simpson. *Helichrysum intermedium* Simpson is an illegitimate name because it is a later homonym of *H. intermedium* Lessing (1832: 295), a species which was described from Cape of Good Hope of Africa. For this reason Kottaimuthu (2023) published *H. simpsonii* as a new name for the New Zealand plant.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ETYMOLOGY

helichrysum: From the Greek words helios 'sun' and chrysos 'gold', referring to the colour of the flowers of some species



Upper Mokihinui. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Helichrysum intermedium. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Licence: CC BY-NC.

NVS CODE

HELINT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

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 Not Threatened | Qualifiers: 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

Kottaimuthu, R. 2023: *Helichrysum simpsonii*, a replacement name for *Helichrysum intermedium* G.Simpson (Asteraceae). *Phytotaxa* 597(2): 193-194. <https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.597.2.9>

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/helichrysum-simpsonii-subsp-simpsonii/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026