

Helichrysum simpsonii subsp. tumidum

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DPT, RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Low growing masses of green and white stems inhabiting coastal cliffs of Otago Peninsula. Stems 3-4mm wide. Leaves scale-like, variable in shape, green, pointed, embedded in whiteish fuzz. Flowers yellowish, in tight cluster at tip of stems.

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream

GENUS

Helichrysum

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Helichrysum simpsonii subsp. *tumidum* (Cheeseman) de Lange & Blanchon

SYNONYMS

Helichrysum selago var. *tumidum* Cheeseman

TAXONOMIC NOTES

The name *Helichrysum intermedium* G.Simpson has been used since 1982 when it was found that the type specimen of *H. selago* (Hook.f.) Benth. & Hook.f. ex Kirk was based on a hybrid. In 2023, the name *H. intermedium* was determined to be illegitimate for the New Zealand taxon, as the name had already been applied to another taxon occurring around the Cape of Good Hope, Africa. *Helichrysum simpsonii* subsp. *tumidum* (Cheeseman) de Lange & Blanchon is provided as a new valid combination for the taxon that was originally described as *Helichrysum selago* var. *tumidum*.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

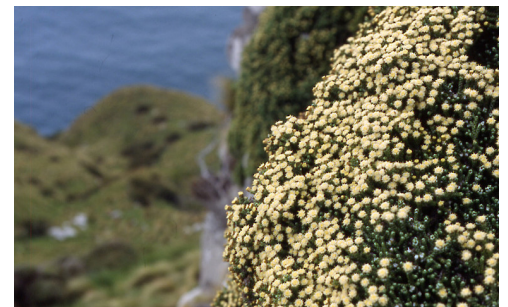
No

ETYMOLOGY

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



Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Helichrysum selago var. *tumidum*.

Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: Dp, RR

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: NStr, RE, 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

de Lange PJ, Blanchon DJ. 2023. New combinations in *Helichrysum simpsonii* Kottaim. for the taxa described as *H. selago* var. *acutum* Cheeseman and *H. selago* var. *tumidum* Cheeseman (Asteraceae) from Aotearoa / New Zealand. *Ukrainian Botanical Journal* 80(4): 301–305.

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026