

# Helichrysum simpsonii var. acutum

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

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## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Low growing masses of green and white stems inhabiting open areas of upland south Marlborough mountains. Stems 2–4mm wide. Leaves scale-like, variable in shape, green, pointed, embedded in whiteish fuzz. Flowers yellowish, in tight cluster at tip of stems.

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## GENUS

Helichrysum

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Helichrysum simpsonii* var. *acutum* (Cheeseman) de Lange & Blanchon

## SYNONYMS

*Helichrysum selago* var. *acutum* 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* var. *acutum* (Cheeseman) de Lange & Blanchon is provided as a new valid combination for the taxon that was originally described as *Helichrysum selago* var. *acutum*.

## 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



## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2012 | Data Deficient

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## 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-var-acutum/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026