

Helichrysum simpsonii

SYNONYMS

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

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Helichrysum simpsonii Kottaim.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

HELINT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Low growing masses of green and white stems inhabiting open areas of western Otago mountains. Stems 2-3mm wide. Leaves scale-like, variable in shape, green, embedded in whiteish fuzz. Flowers yellowish, in tight cluster at tip of stems.

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

ETYMOLOGY

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

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.



Upper Mokihinui. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison



Helichrysum intermedium. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison

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/>