

# Hypericum involutum

## COMMON NAMES

grassland hypericum

## BIOSTATUS

Native

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

Orange, Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Herbaceous perennial, woody stock, not rhizomatous, up to 250 mm high. Stems erect, up to 1.3 mm diameter, quadrangular, 4-lined, black glands absent, unbranched or branched only from base. Leaves 2.5-20.0 × 0.7-6.8 mm, lanceolate, ovate, ovate-elliptic, elliptic-oblong or broadly elliptic, glabrous, reticulate tertiary veins absent; pellucid glands conspicuous; black glands absent; apex subacute or obtuse; margin entire and sometimes recurved; base subcordate or ± amplexicaul; sessile. Inflorescence terminal, lax dichasial cymes, flowers 1-10 per cyme, corolla up to 17.0 mm. Pedicels 4.0-40.0 mm long. Bracteoles absent. Sepals 5, 3.0-7.0 × 1.0-2.5 mm, unequal, lanceolate, elliptic, elliptic-oblong or broadly elliptic; pellucid glands abundant, usually linear; black glands absent; apex acute or subacute; margin entire. Petals up to 8.0 mm long and up to 4.5 mm wide, > sepals, golden yellow, black glands absent, persistent after anthesis. Stamens not in bundles, 30-43, 3.3-4.5 mm long, < petals; anthers 0.25-0.3 mm long, anther gland absent. Ovary 3.0-3.5 × 1.5-2.5 mm, ovoid. Styles 3, 1.0-1.8 mm long, < ovary. Fruit capsule, 5.0-9.5 × 3.2-4.5 mm, ovoid, light brown, conspicuously protruding beyond sepals, coriaceous. Seeds 0.6-0.85 × 0.25-0.4 mm, oblong, terete, yellow to yellow-brown, longitudinal ribs, apices obtuse or rounded. Description from Heenan (2011).

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Hypericum involutum* is distinguished from all other New Zealand *Hypericum* species by the absence of black glands, erect, quadrangular and 4-lined stems that branch from a woody base, 3 styles, and the inflorescence is terminal and with solitary flowers or with few-flowered dichasial cymes.

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North and South Islands from Te Pahi south to Southland but scarce north of the Waikato.

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Inhabiting dry and open sites such on and around rock outcrops, in open scrub, *Kunzea* forest/woodland, and in sparsely-vegetated tussock-grassland.



Te Pahi. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 06/11/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Te Pahi. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 06/11/2007, Licence: CC BY.

## GENUS

Hypericum

## FAMILY

Hypericaceae

## AUTHORITY

Hypericum involutum (Labill.) Choisy

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

October - March

## FRUITING

November - June

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Seeds are wind and water dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown in an open, free-draining soil. Inclined to be somewhat weedy.

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ETYMOLOGY

**hypericum:** From the Greek hyper (above) and eikon (picture), the plant was hung above pictures to ward off evil spirits

## NVS CODE

HYPINV

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 16

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, SO

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, SO

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Critical | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, SO Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland](#)" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Data Deficient 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

Heenan, P.B. 2011: Taxonomic notes on the New Zealand flora: *Hypericum gramineum* and *Hypericum involutum* (Hypericaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 49: 133-139.

Thorsen, M.J.; Dickinson, K.J.M.; Seddon, P.J. 2009: Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (17 April 2011). Description from Heenan (2011)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hypericum-involutum/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026