Olearia adenocarpa

**SYNONYMS**
None

**FAMILY**
Asteraceae

**AUTHORITY**
Olearia adenocarpa Heenan et Molloy

**FLORA CATEGORY**
Vascular – Native

**ENDEMIC TAXON**
Yes

**ENDEMIC GENUS**
No

**ENDEMIC FAMILY**
No

**STRUCTURAL CLASS**
Dicotyledonous Trees & Shrubs

**CHROMOSOME NUMBER**
2n = 108

**CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS**
2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, De, RF

**PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES**
2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, De, RF
2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**
Rare shrub to 1.5m tall with many upright thin twigs arising from trailing branches and bearing clusters of oval dark green leaves that are bright white on the underside and inhabiting the Canterbury Plains. Flowers small, outer surface hairy (lens needed). Fruit dry, with mostly blob-tipped hairs (lens needed).

**DISTRIBUTION**
Endemic. South Island, Canterbury Plains. Known only from the vicinity of Christchurch.

**HABITAT**
A lowland species of recently deposited alluvial gravels and sands.

**FEATURES**
Openly branched, trailing deciduous to semi-deciduous shrub 1.2–1.5 m tall, up to 1.5 m diameter. Branches originating from near or below ground level, widely spreading usually spreading to decumbent, sometimes upright; sometimes rhizomatous. Leaves 3–14 × 2–4 mm, narrowly obovate to broadly obovate or oval, opposite or in fascicles on brachyblasts, upper surfaces light green, grey–green to brown–green with a silvery sheen, undersides uniformly silvery white, base attenuate to cuneate, apex obtuse with a small red to red-brown apiculus. Capitula 1–6 per brachyblast. Pedicels 1.2–4.0 mm long, densely covered with appressed hairs. Involucral bracts 18–22, 4–5-seriate, outer surfaces hairy. Florets 8–12, white. Achenes 2.0–2.5 mm long, light brown, sparsely to moderately covered in sessile glandular hairs.

**SIMILAR TAXA**
Perhaps most closely allied to O. odorata Petrie from which it can be distinguished by its smaller size.

**FLOWERING**
January - February
FLOWER COLOURS
White

FRUITING
February - March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Easily grown from semi hardwood and hardwood cuttings and fresh seed.

THREATS
Severely threatened by browsing animals and habitat loss. Fenced plants are vulnerable to overtopping by pasture grasses. Previously recorded as Olearia aff. odorata (CHR 386084; Canterbury Plains) in de Lange et al., 2004, Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand, New Zealand Journal of Botany 42: 45-76.

ETYMOLOGY
olearia: Named after Johann Gottfried Olearius, a 17th-century German scholar, writer of hymns and author of Specimen Florae Hallensis

ATTRIBUTION

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

CITATION
Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): Olearia adenocarpa Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/olearia-adenocarpa/ (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION