

Olearia angulata

SYNONYMS

Olearia albida var. *angulata* (Kirk) Allan

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Olearia angulata Kirk

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.432

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Data Deficient

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small rounded tree bearing wavy leathery pale green oblong leaves inhabiting coastal sites in northern North Island. Twigs ridged and square in cross-section. Leaves very blunt at base, 4-7cm long by 2cm wide, edge very wavy, veins sunken into upper surface. Flowers white, in clusters. Seeds fluffy.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Known with certainty from Te Paki, and in scattered sites along the western North Island coastline to near Mokau. At times it can be locally common - such as along the southern Kawhia Harbour. But it is more usually uncommon, often represented at any one site by only a handful of trees. Outside Te Paki there seem to be no genuine eastern North Island occurrences.

HABITAT

A coastal tree of rocky headlands, cliff faces, ultramafic shrublands and dune forests. Usually found in the most exposed situations.



In cultivation. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mar 2007. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub or small tree up to 5 m tall. Branchlets 4-angled, grooved, clad in tightly appressed to loose somewhat resinous white hairs. Leaves 4-7 cm, hairless, resinous yellow-green to dark green above, clad in firmly appressed, white to silvery-white hairs beneath, very leathery, oblong (rarely ovate-oblong), margins very strongly undulate. Inflorescences on stout stalks 3-5 cm long, capitula (flower heads) numerous, compact, each 4-5 mm long, with 2-5 florets (flowers) only. Cypsela (seed) surmounted by yellowish, very coarse, pappus (whorl of hairs making up the "parachute" above the seed).

SIMILAR TAXA

A distinct, though somewhat cryptic species, often confused with *O. albida* but distinguished by its much smaller stature, typical oblong leaves whose margins always strongly undulate (in shade or sun), usually resinous yellow-green foliage (though dark green colour variants occur throughout the species range), smaller, compact inflorescences, with shorter, fewer-flowered capitula, by the coarser pappus hairs, and by the chromosome number ($2n = c. 432$ in *O. angulata*, $2n = c. 324$ in *O. albida*).

FLOWERING

January to May

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

March to July

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from semi-hardwood cuttings, and from fresh seed.

THREATS

Olearia angulata is probably not threatened. However, it is not well known, easily confused with the more widespread *O. albida*, and so there are few recent accurate herbarium and site records.

ETYMOLOGY

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

angulata: From the Latin *angulatus* 'cornered or angular'

WHERE TO BUY

Commonly sold by most retail nurseries, often as *Olearia albida* var. *angulata*

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 August 2003. Description modified from Allan (1961)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/olearia-angulata/>