

# Olearia fimbriata

## SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1998)

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

Olearia fimbriata Heads

## 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 Vulnerable | Qualifiers: PD, RF

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: PD, RF

2004 | Serious Decline

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Rare small tree bearing many erect branches that are squareish in cross-section and with clusters of dark green leaves that are white underneath inhabiting eastern South Island valleys. Leaves 10-17mm long by 4-6mm wide. Flowers small, body has hair-edged scales (lens needed). Seeds fluffy.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island (Canterbury, Otago, and Southland).

## HABITAT

Lowland to montane shrubland, alluvial flats, and among shattered rocky outcrops.

## FEATURES

Semi-deciduous shrub or small tree up to 8 m tall; multistemmed or with a single trunk up to 500 mm diameter. Branchlets 4-angled, pale grey or brown, brachyblasts up to 7 × 2 mm. Leaves of adults opposite or in fascicles on brachyblasts; lamina 10–17 × 4–6 mm, elliptic, broadly elliptic to obovate, dark green above, lower surface tomentose with loose and dull hairs, margin entire, apex obtuse to subacute. Inflorescence solitary or in fascicles of 2–5 capitula on brachyblasts, capitula 4 × 4 mm, sessile or peduncles up to 1 mm long. Involucral bracts 16–25, in 3 series, 1.0–1.5 mm long, lanceolate, apex obtuse or subacute, margins with dense white spreading hairs, surface more or less glabrous. Ray florets 5, 3.0–3.5 mm long, limb 0.5 mm long. Disc florets 8, 3.0–3.5 mm long, corolla lobes 0.5–0.8 mm long, tube 2 mm long, pubescent in a ring just below throat with stiff antrorse hairs and a few hairs on corolla lobes. Achenes 1.0–1.5 mm long, narrow obovate, clad in very short, sparse, stiff antrorse hairs; pappus hairs 2 mm long.



Maerewhenua River, North Otago.  
Photographer: John Barkla



Coal Creek. Photographer: John Barkla

## SIMILAR TAXA

*O. fimbriata* is most easily distinguished from the other small-leaved *Olearia* species by its elliptic to obovate and dark green leaves and the involucre bracts that have a distinct fringe of hairs and a usually glabrous lower surface. The most similar species is *O. odorata*, but this is distinguished by leaves that are linear-obovate and with cuneate bases, involucre bracts that are viscid and covered with sessile glandular hairs only, and the corolla having short, sparse and glandular hairs.

## FLOWERING

January–February

## FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Yellow

## FRUITING

January–March

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and semi-hardwood cuttings. Bets in a sunny, well drained situation. Dislikes humidity.

## THREATS

Although widespread this species is often known from scattered individuals over large parts of its range and at few sites it is actively regenerating. Very few sites are protected.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2006. Description by P.B Heenan (adapted from Heads (1998) and subsequently published in de Lange et al. (2010).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.

Heads, M. 1998. Biodiversity in the New Zealand divaricating tree daisies: *Olearia* sect. nov. (Compositae). *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 127(3): 239-285.

## CITATION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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