

Ornithopus compressus

COMMON NAMES

Yellow serradella

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Tap-rooted, hairy, yellow-flowered annual.

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

SIMILAR TAXA

Other *Ornithopus* species but this is the most hairy

DISTRIBUTION

Records in NZ from coastal north and south of Auckland, and from Horowhenua, 2017-2022

GENUS

Ornithopus

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Ornithopus compressus L.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FRUITING

Curved pods

YEAR NATURALISED

2017

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Had been trialed as a fodder crop near Rotorua in 1982 but did not survive (specimen cited in Aust. Virtual Herbarium)

TOLERANCES

Likely to spread in sandy soils

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Seed



Densely pubescent, pinnate leaf (upper surface). Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 02/11/2019, Licence: CC BY-NC.



In dunes at Kuku Beach, Levin, Horowhenua. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 03/11/2019, Licence: Public domain.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Ogle, C. C., de Lange, P. J., Cameron, E. K., Parris, B. S., Champion, P. D. (2020). Checklist of dicotyledons, gymnosperms and pteridophytes Naturalised or Casual in New Zealand: Additional records 2007–2019, *Perspectives in Biosecurity*, 5: 88
<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/115995> (accessed 18 July 2022)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ornithopus-compressus/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026