

Ozothamnus vauvilliersii

COMMON NAME

Mountain tauhinu

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Ozothamnus vauvilliersii Hombr. et Jacquinot ex Decne

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

OZOVAU

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 26-28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Yellow-green bushy shrub with short (3-10mm long) oval leaves inhabiting open areas and disturbed sites. Flowers white, body of papery scales, in tight clusters at tip of branches. Seeds fuzzy.

DISTRIBUTION

North, South, Stewart, and Auckland Islands. Found throughout in suitable habitat.

HABITAT

Lowland to montane or lower subalpine shrubland and grassland.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub up to 3 m tall. Branchlets rather stout, furrowed, more or less glutinous, clad in fulvous tomentum. Leaves 5-12 x 2-3 mm, finally spreading from erect petioles, coriaceous, becoming glabrous above, clad in fulvous tomentum below, linear-spathulate to narrow oblong-obovate, margins slightly revolute, midrib prominent below. Capitula 10-20 or more, in dense corymbs, pedicels short. Phyllaries in 3-4 series, outer tomentose on back, inner with white radiating tips; forming a turbinate involucre approximately 4 mm long. Scales of receptacle numerous, white-tipped; florets 8-15; achenes hardly 1 mm long, glabrous to sparsely pubescent; pappus-hairs up to 4.5 mm long, distinctly thickened at tips.



Mangatepopo, February. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Ozothamnus vauvilliersii. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

Ozothamnus leptophyllus has leaves of linear order, not or hardly widened above middle.

Olearia solandri has leaves opposite or in opposite clusters, young branchlets square in cross-section, and white daisies borne along the leafy shoots.

Olearia nummulariifolia has stiffer, broader leaves, and white daisies borne behind the leafy shoot tip. *Olearia cymbifolia* has stiff leaves with margins rolled down almost to the midrib, and flowers like *Olearia nummulariifolia*.

Brachyglottis cassinioides has leaves whitish green above, white beneath, with margins slightly toothed on shaded shoots, and bright yellow daisy flowers.

FLOWERING

December-May (-August)

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

February-June (-September)

ETYMOLOGY

ozothamnus: from the Greek 'ozo' meaning to smell and 'thamnos' meaning shrub; alluding to the fragrant foliage when crushed.

vauvilliersii: After Vauvilliers

TAXONOMIC NOTES

It is debatable whether *Ozothamnus vauvilliersii* is an entity worthy of species level recognition, or just an extent of the variation of *Ozothamnus leptophyllus* (see notes below that species).

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961) and Wilson & Galloway (1993).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H. H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1. Wellington: Government Printer. pg. 726-728.

Wilson, H. D., & Galloway, T. 1993. Small-leaved shrubs of New Zealand. Manuka Press. pg. 204-205.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ozothamnus-vauvilliersii/>