

Pachycladon enysii

COMMON NAMES

high alpine cress

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Low herb up to 10cm tall. Base of stem fleshy, about 1.5cm diameter, crowned by a rosette of leaves. Leaves toothed, about 4cm long, 1.5cm wide, oblong to spoon-shaped, covered with branched hairs. Flower stems short and branched. Flowers white, 4-petalled, up to 10mm across. Pods narrow-linear, about 2.5-3.5cm long, 2mm wide. Seeds less than 1mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Pachycladon fastigiata, *P. stellata*. Leaves in *P. enysii* have a mix of forked and star-shaped hairs. *P. fastigiata* leaves are hairless and sharply toothed, *P. stellata* leaves are shallowly lobed and star-shaped hairs. The flower head in *P. enysii* is dense and on short stems. Other *Pachycladon* species have longer flower stems.

DISTRIBUTION

South Island: north and east of Southern Alps.

HABITAT

High alpine rock crevices, on drier mountains.

GENUS

Pachycladon

FAMILY

Brassicaceae

AUTHORITY

Pachycladon enysii (Cheeseman) Heenan et A. Mitch.

SYNONYMS

Cheesemania enysii (Cheeseman) Schulz, *Cardamine enysii* Cheeseman, *Nasturtium enysii* (Cheeseman) Cheesman

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No



Pachycladon. Photographer: Shannel Courtney, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Pachycladon. Photographer: Cathy Jones, Licence: CC BY.

FLOWERING

January - March

FRUITING

March - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult and should not be removed from the wild.

ETYMOLOGY

ensii: Named in honour of John Davies Enys (1837-1912), a Cornish geologist, biologist and farmer, who owned Castle Hill Station in Canterbury from 1867 to 1891.

NVS CODE

PACENY

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Gradual Decline

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, NR, NS, Sp Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 August 2003. Description based on Allan (1961) - as *Cheesemanian ensyii*

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NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pachycladon-ensyii/>

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