

Pleurophyllum hookeri

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Radical leaves $\pm 150\text{--}350 \times 45\text{--}65$ mm, obovate-oblong, abruptly acute to acuminate, narrowed to sheathing base, coriaceous, completely clad in dense silvery tomentum; margins rather closely crenulate to subentire, hydathodes evident, sheaths densely clad in long floccose hairs; ribs c. 10–15, inconspicuous. **Scapes** up to 600 mm long, grooved, tomentose; lower leaves narrow-oblong, upper linear; racemes with c. 10–20 capitula, each c. 20 mm diameter. Involucral bracts linear-lanceolate, acuminate, with scattered hairs. **Ray-florets** short, inconspicuous; disk-florets purple; achenes with silky to substrigose hairs. **Pappus-hairs** hardly or not at all thickened above

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from *Pleurophyllum criniferum* and *P. speciosum* by having leaves with both sides covered with silvery appressed tomentum. It is otherwise most similar to *P. criniferum* with which it shares capitula that have inconspicuous ray florets.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to Auckland Islands, Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku and Macquarie Islands in the Subantarctics.

HABITAT

Apparently restricted to montane herbfields.

THREATS

In the geopolitical New Zealand part of its range this is a naturally uncommon species. It is widespread and abundant within its New Zealand island habitats, with both the Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku being Nature Reserves and World Heritage sites with access only by permit, and strictly limited as to numbers of people. This species is however possibly threatened on Macquarie Island, where rabbits have become a serious problem.

GENUS

Pleurophyllum

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Pleurophyllum hookeri Buchanan



Campbell Island. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.



Campbell Island. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1884)

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December–February

FRUITING

January–May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild

ETYMOLOGY

pleurophyllum: From Greek pleuro- (rib, side) and phyllo- (leaf) components meaning 'ribbed-leaved'.

hookeri: Named after Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker (born 1817) - a world famous botanist who travelled on the Antarctic expedition of 1839 under the command of Sir James Ross and wrote "Handbook of New Zealand Flora" published in 1864–67 describing many specimens sent to Kew by collectors. He died in 1911 and has a memorial stone at Westminster Abbey London.

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, SO

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, SO

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

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

Description adapted from: Allan HH. (1961).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pleurophyllum-hookeri/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026