Raoulia eximia

COMMON NAMES
vegetable sheep

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Stock very stout, woody; branches woody below, very densely compacted, forming rounded cushions up to 1 m or more diameter, up to 1 m tall. Leaves densely imbricate, 3.0-4.0 × up to 1.5 mm, 1-nerved, obovate- to oblong-spathulate to narrow-oblong, rounded at apex; apical portion on both surfaces with dense brush of long straight hairs exceeding and obscuring outline of lamina; ventral surface glabrous below; dorsal surface clad in ascending straight hairs. Capitula c.3 mm diameter. Inner series of involucral bracts linear, 3-4 mm long, scarious on margins, pilose in upper portion, tips not white, not radiating. Florets 10-15 or more. Achenes hardly 1 mm long, clad in long silky hairs; pappus-hairs rigid

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. South Island - mostly east of the main divide from Marlborough to northern Southland

HABITAT
Subalpine to alpine. In rocky ground such as scree and talus slopes, cliff faces and boulder falls and in fellfield

GENUS
Raoulia

FAMILY
Asteraceae

AUTHORITY
Raoulia eximia Hook.f.

SYNONYMS
Haastia greenii Hook.f.; Psychrophyton eximium Beauverd

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No



Mt Peel, Kahurangi NP. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.



Kahurangi National Park. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 23/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

FLOWERING
November - January

FRUITING
January - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Difficult - should not be removed from the wild

ETYMOLOGY
raoulia: Named after Étienne Fiacre Louis Raoul (23 July 1815–30 March 1852) who was a French naval surgeon and naturalist. He published a book Choix de plantes de la Nouvelle-Zélande ("Selected plants of New Zealand") in 1846. The genus was named after him by Joseph Hooker.
eximia: Strikingly unusual

NVS CODE
RAOEXI

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 28

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, 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, Lycopsida, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085

ATTRIBUTION
Description adapted from Allan (1961).
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MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/raoulia-eximia/

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