

Raoulia rubra

COMMON NAMES

vegetable sheep

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stock hard, woody; branches woody at base, densely compacted, forming cushions up to 250 mm diameter and 150 mm tall. Leaves 2.0-4.0 × 1.0-1.5 mm, obovate-spathulate, rounded to truncate at tips. Apical portion of leaf clad on both surfaces in long straight hairs exceeding lamina; lower portion glabrous on both surfaces, 1-nerved. Capitula c.3 mm diameter. Inner series of involucre bracts linear, obtuse, scarious on margins, tip white, short, radiating. Florets 10-15; corolla crimson to purplish. Achenes c.2.5 mm long, clad in long silky hairs; pappus-hairs c.2.5 mm long, rigid.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North (Tararua Ranges) and South Island (North-west Nelson - Haupiri Range, Mt Arthur, North Westland - Paparoa Range)

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine - on rocky slopes, stable talus, cliff faces and rock ledges.

THREATS

Not Threatened - A narrow range endemic common within its known geographic range

GENUS

Raoulia

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Raoulia rubra Buchanan

SYNONYMS

Psychrophyton rubrum Beauverd

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No



Robert Ridge, Nelson (December).

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

FLOWERING

November - January

FRUITING

January - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - should not be removed from the wild

PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for March 2010](#) for the full story.

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.

rubra: Red

NVS CODE

RAORUB

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 28$

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

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 (1961).

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/raoulia-rubra/>

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