

Raoulia rubra

COMMON NAME

vegetable sheep

SYNONYMS

Psychrophyton rubrum Beauverd

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Raoulia rubra Buchanan

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

RAORUB

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

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.

FEATURES

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 involucral 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.

FLOWERING

November - January



Robert Ridge, Nelson (December).
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

FRUITING

January - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - should not be removed from the wild

THREATS

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

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol. I, Government Printer, Wellington.

MORE INFORMATION

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