Raoulia subulata

COMMON NAMES
scabweed

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

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

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS
White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Closely branched more or less tufted herb forming patches up to 100 mm diameter; branches up to c. 40 mm long. Leaves densely imbricate, suberect to spreading, 3.0-10.0 × 0.5-1.0 mm, glabrous, membranous, firm, prominently 1-nerved, lanceolate, acuminate. Capitula more or less 4 mm diameter. Involucral bracts scarious, 3-4 × c.1 mm.; inner irregularly laciniate at tips. Florets 15-25, female fewer than perfect and sterile; corolla subfunnelform, lobes more or less acute. Achenes < 1mm. long, papillae long-claviform; pappus-hairs c.3 mm. long, rather rigid, slightly thickened above; papillae claviform. Receptacle hispid.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. South Island: Nelson south to Southland, mostly east of the main divide

HABITAT
Subalpine herbfield

GENUS
Raoulia

FAMILY
Asteraceae

AUTHORITY
Raoulia subulata Hook.f.

SYNONYMS
Psychrophyton subulatum Beauverd

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
December - February



Nelson Lake National Park. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 09/01/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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

FRUITING
February - 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.
subulata: From the Latin subulam 'awl', meaning awl-shaped

NVS CODE
RAOSUB

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 56

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: DPS, DPT, NS, NStr, RR, Sp Help
Current regional threat status assessments prepared according to Crisp et al. (2025) are displayed when available. The 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-subulata/

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