

Shawia arborescens

COMMON NAMES

common tree daisy, glossy tree daisy

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy small tree bearing leathery oval pointed dark green glossy leaves that are paler underneath and large clusters of white daisy-like flowers that develop into fluffy seeds. Leaves variable, 4-8cm long, longer than wide, edge with a few small sharp bumps. Flower petals white, centre pale yellow.

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A shrub or tree up to 4m tall.

HABITAT

Occurs in forest and shrublands in lowland and montane environments.

GENUS

Shawia

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Shawia arborescens (G.Forst.) Raoul

SYNONYMS

Solidago arborescens G.Forst., *Olearia arborescens* (G.Forst.) Cockayne et Laing, *Olearia arborescens* (G.Forst.) Cockayne et Laing var. *arborescens*, *Olearia arborescens* var. *cordatifolia* Kirk, *Olearia nitida* Hook.f., *Olearia erythropappa* Colenso, *Olearia multiflora* Colenso, *Olearia populifolia* Colenso, *Olearia suborbiculata* Colenso

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October - January

FRUITING

December - March



Olearia arborescens, Dunedin. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Upper Otira Valley, Canterbury. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 01/02/2011, Licence: CC BY-NC.

CULTIVATION

Occasionally sold by specialist native plant nurseries.

ETYMOLOGY

shawia: After Thomas Shaw (1694-1751), English scholar and traveller.

arborescens: Becoming a tree

NVS CODE

OLEARB

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

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 Not Threatened 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

Saldivia, P.; Nicol, D.A. 2025: Reinstatement, broader circumscription, and infrageneric classification of *Shawia* (Astereae, Celmisiinae), a large woody genus endemic to Australasia. *Phytoneuron* 49: 1–43.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/shawia-arborescens/>

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