

Shawia fimbriata

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: RF

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Rare small tree bearing many erect branches that are squareish in cross-section and with clusters of dark green leaves that are white underneath inhabiting eastern South Island valleys. Leaves 10-17mm long by 4-6mm wide. Flowers small, body has hair-edged scales (lens needed). Seeds fluffy.

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Semi-deciduous shrub or small tree up to 8 m tall; multistemmed or with a single trunk up to 500 mm diameter. Branchlets 4-angled, pale grey or brown, brachyblasts up to 7 × 2 mm. Leaves of adults opposite or in fascicles on brachyblasts; lamina 10–17 × 4–6 mm, elliptic, broadly elliptic to obovate, dark green above, lower surface tomentose with loose and dull hairs, margin entire, apex obtuse to subacute. Inflorescence solitary or in fascicles of 2–5 capitula on brachyblasts, capitula 4 × 4 mm, sessile or peduncles up to 1 mm long. Involucral bracts 16–25, in 3 series, 1.0–1.5 mm long, lanceolate, apex obtuse or subacute, margins with dense white spreading hairs, surface more or less glabrous. Ray florets 5, 3.0–3.5 mm long, limb 0.5 mm long. Disc florets 8, 3.0–3.5 mm long, corolla lobes 0.5–0.8 mm long, tube 2 mm long, pubescent in a ring just below throat with stiff antrorse hairs and a few hairs on corolla lobes. Achenes 1.0–1.5 mm long, narrow obovate, clad in very short, sparse, stiff antrorse hairs; pappus hairs 2 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Shawia fimbriata is most easily distinguished from the other small-leaved *Shawia* species by its elliptic to obovate and dark green leaves and the involucral bracts that have a distinct fringe of hairs and a usually glabrous lower surface. The most similar species is *S. odorata*, but this is distinguished by leaves that are linear-obovate and with cuneate bases, involucral bracts that are viscid and covered with sessile glandular hairs only, and the corolla having short, sparse and glandular hairs.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island (Canterbury, Otago, and Southland).

HABITAT

Lowland to montane shrubland, alluvial flats, and among shattered rocky outcrops.

THREATS

Although widespread this species is often known from scattered individuals over large parts of its range and at few sites it is actively regenerating. Very few sites are protected.



Flowers. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Olearia fimbriata, Coal Creek Roxburgh. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

GENUS

Shawia

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Shawia fimbriata (Heads) Saldivia & Nicol

SYNONYMS

Olearia fimbriata Heads

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

January–February

FRUITING

January–March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and semi-hardwood cuttings. Bets in a sunny, well drained situation. Dislikes humidity.

EXTRA INFORMATION

[Fact sheet](#) about *Olearia fimbriata* written by the Department of Conservations Olearia Recovery Group

ETYMOLOGY

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

NVS CODE

OLEFIM

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: PD, RF

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: PD, RF

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: PD, RF

2004 | Serious Decline

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: NR, NStr, PD, PF, TL 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

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: *Threatened Plants of New Zealand*. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.

Heads, M. 1998. Biodiversity in the New Zealand divaricating tree daisies: *Olearia* sect. nov. (Compositae). *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 127(3): 239-285.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2006. Description by P.B Heenan (adapted from Heads (1998) and subsequently published in de Lange et al. (2010)).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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