

Shawia odorata

COMMON NAMES

scented tree daisy

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, PF

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy shrub with many erect reddish twigs bearing pale narrow oval leaves that are white underneath inhabiting open areas east of Main Divide. Leaves 10–22mm long by 4–6mm wide. Flowers small. Seed fluffy.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dark bushy shrub up to 4 m tall. **Branchlets** deciduous, rather stout and interlacing, circular in cross-section, striate, bark fawn-grey, downy when young. **Leaves** opposite, or in opposite fascicles on very short branchlets, 10–25 × 6–15 mm, subsessile, coriaceous, obovate-oblong, glabrous or nearly so above when mature, green, clad below in soft white tomentum; margins flat, entire. **Capitula** sticky when in bud, in opposite fascicles of 2–5, on short stout peduncles, **florets** 20–40, **ray-florets** up to 20, short; corolla of disk-florets viscid-glandular, phyllaries in 3–4 overlapping rows, linear-oblong, obtuse, sticky. **Achenes** pilose, striate, compressed, 1–2 mm long, pappus-hairs 2–3 mm long, pale fawn to greyish white.

SIMILAR TAXA

Shawia virgata in general may be mistaken for *S. odorata*, however the branchlets are square in cross-section, the leaves are pale green above, and the phyllaries have non-glandular hairs which are not sticky.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Te Waipounamu | South Island, eastern side of the main Ranges Marlborough region then not so common until McKenzie country to Central Otago.

HABITAT

Lowland to Montane (50–1200 m.a.s.l.). Shrubland and scrub.

GENUS

Shawia

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Shawia odorata (Petrie) Saldivia & Nicol



Olearia odorata flowers, Hector Mountains.
Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



St Bathans Range. Photographer: John Barkla,
Licence: CC BY.

SYNONYMS

Olearia odorata Petrie

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December – February.

FRUITING

January – March.

ETYMOLOGY

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

odorata: Scented

NVS CODE

OLEODO

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 At Risk – Regionally Declining | Qualifiers: TL, DPT 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

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. Pgs. 669–670.

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

Wilson HD & Galloway T. 1993. Small-leaved shrubs of New Zealand. Manuka Press. Pg 196.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by MD Ward (May 18th 2025). Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Wilson & Galloway (1993).

Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](#) licence.

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

08 June 2026