

Shawia rani

COMMON NAMES

heketara

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Small tree bearing thin toothed broad oval leaves that are white underneath and with the vein network easily visible inhabiting forests from Northland to the Coromandel. Leaves 8-10 cm by 5-6.5cm wide. Flowers white, body not fuzzy, in a loose spray. Seeds fluffy.

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Northern North Island only, from Te Pahi south to the northern Waikato and near Thames

GENUS

Shawia

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Shawia rani (A.Cunn.) Saldivia & Nicol

SYNONYMS

Brachyglottis rani A.Cunn., *Eurybia cunninghamii* Hook.f., *Olearia rani* (A.Cunn.) Druce var. *rani*, *Olearia cunninghamii* (Hook.f.) Hook.f., *Olearia rani* var. *miniata* Kirk



Waipoua Forest. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Date taken: 06/11/2014, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Waipoua Forest. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Date taken: 06/11/2014, Licence: CC BY-NC.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Saldivia & Nicol (2025) did not make combinations for *Olearia colorata* Colenso; accepted by NZPCN as *O. rani* var. *colorata* (Colenso) Kirk stating “Allan (1961: 669) did not accept infraspecific taxa within *Shawia rani* (as *Olearia rani*) and mentioned: “A somewhat polymorphic sp., the status of the different forms [not in the taxonomic meaning] not well understood”. Schönberger et al. (2021) accepted both of Kirk’s varieties (*colorata* and *miniata* [as *minuta*, following the misspelling by Allan 1961]). We follow Allan’s (1961) criterion because no taxonomic work validating these varieties has been done since”. This statement is not a clear reflection of what is stated by Allan (1961) who provided no ‘criterion’ merely noting that the status of the different forms is not well understood. It is our view, and evidently that of Bioeconomy Science Institute Landcare Research, that relegation of taxa into synonymy without study is premature. In *Shawia rani*, two units can be segregated in the field and these have long been recognised as either distinct or potentially so. Therefore, the shift to *Shawia* leaves *Olearia rani* var. *colorata* in *Olearia*, and until further study is done, NZPCN prefer to retain it as a unit that can be recognised in the field, rather than risk it being overlooked because, as yet, no one has done a proper study of the variation in *Shawia rani* s.l. – which was what Allan (1961) was stating needed to be done.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and cuttings but very difficult to maintain in cultivation, which is why it is so scarce in the horticultural trade

CULTIVATION

Occasionally offered by specialist native plant nurseries.

ETYMOLOGY

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

rani: Corruption of wha-rangi

NVS CODE

OLERV

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

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the “[Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland](#)” Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

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.

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

08 June 2026