

Shawia traversiorum

COMMON NAMES

hakaipiri, Chatham Island akeake

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, IE, NO, RF

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Small tree with oval dark green leathery leaves that are whiteish underneath and persistent seed heads inhabiting drier sites on the Chatham Islands. Leaves 15-80mm long by 10-46mm wide. Flowers cream or brownish, in small clusters, appearing late spring. Seeds fluffy.

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tree 12–18 m tall; trunks up to 1 m diameter, upright to spreading; occasionally with epicormic shoots. Bark light grey, becoming coarsely fibrous, deeply fissured, and rough textured on trunk and old branches; branchlets quadrangular, stout, 2.0–2.6 mm diameter. Leaves opposite, lamina 15–80 × 10–46 mm, broadly elliptic, obovate, broad-obovate, or occasionally elliptic; upper surface dark green, glossy, midrib raised and prominent; underside with dense appressed, off-white, tomentum; apex subacute to obtuse, with a small apiculus; base cuneate to obtuse, sometimes attenuate; petiole 5–10 mm long, covered in dense appressed tomentum. Inflorescence an axillary panicle with 5–68 capitula, persistent after fruiting; primary branches in 3–6 opposite pairs; lower pairs of branches with 3–19 capitula, upper 1–3 branches each with 1–3 capitula. Bracts subtending primary branches, 2.0–5.0 × 0.8–1.2 mm, lanceolate to narrowly triangular, apex subacute. Bracteoles 2.0–3.0 × 0.5–0.8 mm, margin entire, apex subacute. Capitulum 5.0–7.0 mm long, involucre cylindric; involucral bracts 10–14, 1–2-seriate, upper surface glabrous, underside moderately to densely hairy, margins entire, apex acute to subacute; outer bracts 2.0–2.8 × 0.8–1.1 mm, narrowly triangular to elliptic; inner bracts 3.3–4.0 × 0.6–1.1 mm, lanceolate to narrow triangular. Florets 7–11 per capitulum; corolla usually cream to buff, sometimes pale yellow. Pistillate florets 3–5. Hermaphrodite florets 3–7. Style 4.5–5.5 mm long; stigmatic arms 0.4–0.6 mm long. Ovary 0.8–1.6 × 0.4–0.6 mm. Anthers 1.3–1.5 mm long, white, dehiscent in bud, apex apiculate; filaments 0.5–0.6 mm long, inserted at top of corolla tube. Seeds 1.2–2.1 × 0.6–0.8 mm, narrow-cylindric, light brown, with 4–5 pale ribs, sparsely to moderately hairy; pappus 2.2–3.3 mm long, off-white to buff, finely scabrid.



Olearia traversiorum with maturing and partially opened capitula Chatham Islands, Rekohu (Chatham Island), near Waikato, Te Whanga shoreline. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Date taken: 12/11/2018, Licence: CC BY.



Olearia traversii. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Shawia telmatica is closely related. It differs from *hakapiri* by its restriction to permanently flooded swamp habitats, smaller stature, slender trunk, narrower leaves, lemon-yellow and less hairy corolla, less branched inflorescence with fewer capitula, fulvous hairs on the inflorescence, earlier flowering season, readily dispersed seed, and abscising inflorescences

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Chatham Islands

HABITAT

A tree common of lowland forests, now most commonly found on dune systems. It also occurs along the edge of larger lagoons and lakes (but only in free draining soils) and sometimes on cliff tops.

THREATS

The wood of this tree is used for fence posts and as firewood.

GENUS

Shawia

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Shawia traversiorum (F.Muell.) Salidiva & Nicol

SYNONYMS

Eurybia traversii F.Muell., *Olearia traversii* (F.Muell.) Hook.f. ortho. var., *Olearia traversiorum* (F.Muell.) Hook.f.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November – January

FRUITING

January – June

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from semi-hardwood cuttings and fresh seed. Fast growing and an excellent shelter belt. This species rarely flowers in the northern part of New Zealand.

EXTRA INFORMATION

This tree has long been known by the name 'akeake', that name has caused some confusion because of the unclear relationship with the unrelated *Dodonaea viscosa* (Sapindaceae) known in New Zealand as 'akeake' and on the Chatham Islands as Akeake Rautini. In part to resolve this confusion *Shawia traversiorum* has become more widely known as 'Chatham Island akeake'. Recently it has been pointed out that the Moriori ta re name for this Chatham Islands endemic is 'hakapiri'. On advice from the Moriori imi this name is now used preferentially here.

ETYMOLOGY

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

traversiorum: William Thomas Locke Travers (1819-1903) was an Irish lawyer, magistrate, politician, explorer, naturalist, photographer. He lived in New Zealand from 1849 and was a fellow of the Linnean Society. *Olearia traversiorum* is named for both William and his son, Henry Travers, both of whom explored the Nelson region extensively and collected alpine plants which were sent to Kew Botanic Gardens.

NVS CODE

OLETRA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: CD, DP, IE, RF

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: CD, DP, IE, RF

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: CD, DP, IE, RF

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Heenan, P.B.; de Lange, P.J.; Houlston, G.J.; Murray, B.G. 2008: *Olearia telmatica* (Asteraceae: Astereae), a new tree species endemic to the Chatham Islands. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 46: 567-583.

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 Peter J. de Lange (12 December 2008). Description based on Heenan et al. (2008).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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