

Shawia virgata

COMMON NAMES

twiggy 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

Small tree with many thin often interlacing square twigs bearing clusters of oval leaves that are white underneath inhabiting open sites and scrubland from the Waikato south to northern Westland. Tree often yellowish-green in appearance. Flowers small, white, in tight clusters.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands. From Ohinemuri and the Whangamarino Swamp south to Wellington. In the South Island from Marlborough Sounds west until Fiordland.

GENUS

Shawia

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Shawia virgata (Hook. f.) Sch.Bip

SYNONYMS

Eurybia virgata Hook.f., *Olearia virgata* (Hook.f.) Hook.f., *Olearia aggregata* Colenso, *Olearia parvifolia* Colenso, *Olearia virgata* var. *serpentina* (G.Simpson) Allan; *Olearia serpentina* (G.Simpson) Allan; *Olearia virgata* var. *virgata* Hook.f.; *Olearia virgata* var. *implicita* G.Simpson; *Olearia ramuliflora* Colenso, *Olearia virgata* var. *ramuliflora* (Colenso) Kirk, *Olearia laxiflora* Kirk, *Olearia virgata* var. *laxiflora* (Kirk) Allan, *Olearia divaricata* Cockayne, *Olearia virgata* subsp. *centralis* Heads

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

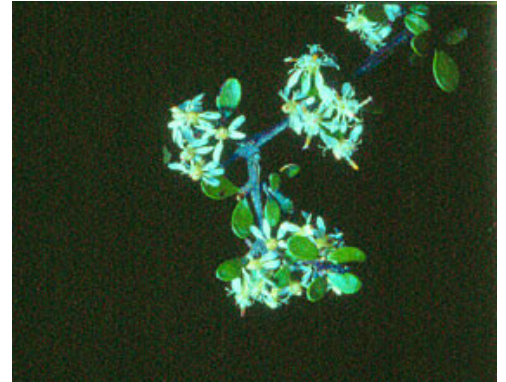
ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

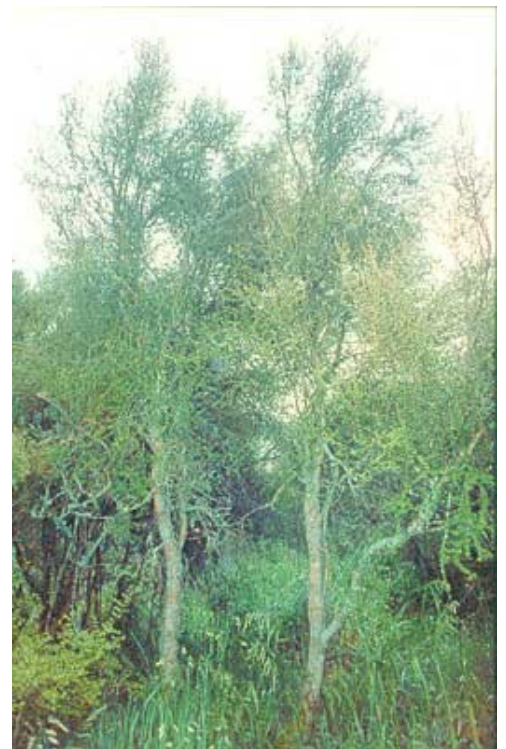
WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).



Balls clearing, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Balls clearing, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ETYMOLOGY

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

virgata: Twiggy

NVS CODE

OLEVIR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 108$

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

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.

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

25 May 2026