

Taraxacum pseudohamatum

COMMON NAMES

Dandelion

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout, medium-sized to large plants bearing myriad suberect to erect leaves. Leaves not dimorphic, lanceolate, strongly hamate; adaxially usually glossy dark green, sometimes purple-green, or maroon when stressed or in exposed situations, abaxially slightly paler, interlobes sometimes darkly blotched, surfaces sparsely hairy or not, mid-rib pinkish with interwoven strands; petioles ± winged near base, white or purple (depending on exposure). Lateral leaf lobes 5–6(–8), alternate, recurved, broad, subacute to acute, convex on distal margin, proximal lobes filiform-dentate. Terminal leaf lobes deltoid to sagittate, ± entire, subobtusate. Scapes equalling leaves or slightly overtopping them, glabrous or sparsely hairy, hairs appressed. Involucre in bud 20–25 mm long, initially broadly ovoid, prior to anthesis distinctly barrel-shaped, dark green-brown to dark purple-green; involucral bracts in two whorls, outer involucral bracts 16–20, spreading, arcuate, usually reflexed at anthesis, 10–14 × 4.0–5.6 mm, broadly lanceolate, adaxially dark glaucous green, strongly pruinose, often suffused purple, abaxially dark green to purple-green, margins distinctly bordered; inner involucral bracts 12–18(–20), erect in bud, arcuate, apical $\frac{1}{3}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ recurved at anthesis, abaxially dark brown-green, glaucescent to pruinose. Capitula 50–60 mm diameter, dark yellow. Ligules abaxially striped dark grey, or centrally grey with dark orange striping toward margins, inner florets sometimes finely tipped orange. Stigma dark-yellow, pollen plentiful. Achene 3.5–4.0 mm long, pale-yellow to yellow-brown; cone 0.4–0.6.

SIMILAR TAXA

Taraxacum pseudohamatum could only be confused with *T. hamatum* (known so far only from a single 1963 collection made from Hokoreoro / Rangatira / South-East Island in the Chathams group). From this species it is readily distinguished by the exterior bracts of the capitula which are bordered. Vegetative material, however, cannot be distinguished. From the other *Taraxacum* in New Zealand *T. pseudohamatum* is easily recognised by the hamate, lanceolate, usually darkly coloured leaves; dark green-brown to dark purple-green floral buds; and by the outer whorl of involucral bracts, which are adaxially dark glaucous green, strongly pruinose, often suffused purple, spreading and glabrous and distinctly bordered.

DISTRIBUTION

Naturalised. Known with certainty from the Chatham Islands where it has been collected from Rēkohu / Wharekauri / Chatham Island



Taraxacum pseudohamatum in grassland, North Road, Rēkohu / Wharekauri / Chatham Island. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Date taken: 12/08/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Taraxacum pseudohamatum growing in gravelled margin of a deck of a new house, Rēkohu / Wharekauri / Chatham Island, South Coast, Waitangi – Tuku Road, residence of Mike Bell. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Date taken: 02/10/2023, Licence: CC BY.

HABITAT

A ruderal inhabiting dunefield, grasslands, verges, land banks and in urban wasteland, lawns and foot paths

GENUS

Taraxacum

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Taraxacum pseudohamatum Dahlst.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

February – September

FRUITING

February – October

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial with wind-dispersed seeds.

ETYMOLOGY

taraxacum: From the Greek 'taraxos' (disorder), and 'akos' (remedy), referring to medical qualities.

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 24

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Meijer, K., Aptroot, A., Tang, T., de Lange, P. (2024). *Taraxacum pseudohamatum* Dahlst. (Asteraceae, Cichorioideae) – a new naturalisation from the Chatham Islands, Aotearoa / New Zealand. *Perspectives in Biodiversity*, 2(1): 50–59. <https://doi.org/10.34074/pibdiv.002106>

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/taraxacum-pseudohamatum/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/taraxacum-pseudohamatum/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026