

# Vittadinia australis

## COMMON NAMES

white fuzzweed

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Fine, spreading, prostrate to ascending, perennial herb, up to 30cm tall with stout root. Stems usually sparsely to densely clothed in long, white, erect hairs and glandular hairs, becoming hairless and woody towards the base. Leaves dull green, hairy, often 3- to 5-lobed, up to 1.5cm long. Flower heads small daisies, 1-1.5cm across, with white petals and yellow centres, occurring singly at branch tips. Seed heads spherical and fluffy.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Introduced weedy *Vittadinia gracilis* and *Vi. cuneata*. *V. australis* has spreading white stem hairs and white flowers. The introduced species have purple flowers and tightly pressed stem hairs.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands. Mainly in the drier eastern regions from Great Barrier Island south to Southland.

## HABITAT

In stony eroding tussock grassland, dry hill slopes, rock outcrops (including limestone, greywacke), riverbeds and stony places. Lowland through low-alpine zone to 1,500m.

## THREATS

*Vittadinia australis* has declined from large parts of its North Island range, and is now possibly extinct north of the Bay of Plenty. It has also declined from large parts of the south Wellington coast. In the South Island there is also some evidence of decline. The exact cause(s) of this observed decline is unclear but the spread of weeds, including introduced *Vittadinia* spp., and browsing animals are likely factors.

## GENUS

*Vittadinia*

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Vittadinia australis* A.Rich.



Alexandra. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Mangatoetoe Stream, Palliser Bay. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 02/10/2010, Licence: CC BY.

## SYNONYMS

None

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

October to June

## FRUITING

November to August

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from cuttings and fresh seed but can be hard to maintain in cultivation.

## ETYMOLOGY

**vittadinia**: Named after Dr. Carlo Vittadini (1800 - 20 November 1865), an Italian medical doctor and mycologist.

**australis**: Southern

## NVS CODE

VITAUS

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18, 36

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Data Deficient

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Extirpated 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.

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, NR, NStr, Sp 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.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/vittadinia-australis/>

## PDF DATE

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