# Vittadinia australis

# **COMMON NAME**

white fuzzweed

### **SYNONYMS**

None

### **FAMILY**

Asteraceae

### **AUTHORITY**

Vittadinia australis A.Rich.

### **FLORA CATEGORY**

Vascular - Native

### **ENDEMIC TAXON**

Yes

### **ENDEMIC GENUS**

No

# **ENDEMIC FAMILY**

No

# STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

### **NVS CODE**

**VITAUS** 

### **CHROMOSOME NUMBER**

2n = 18, 36

### **CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS**

2017 | Not Threatened

# **PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES**

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 Data Deficient

# **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.

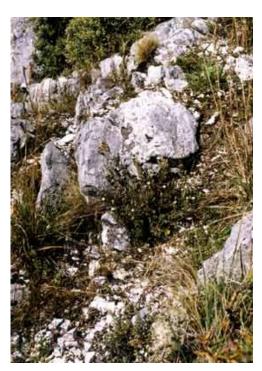
## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

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.





Vittadinia australis. Photographer: Jan Clayton-Greene, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Vittadinia australis. Photographer: Jan Clayton-Greene, Licence: CC BY-NC.

#### 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.

### **FLOWERING**

October to June

### **FLOWER COLOURS**

White, Yellow

### **FRUITING**

November to August

# **PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE**

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

### **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.

### **ETYMOLOGY**

vittadinia: Man's name australis: Southern

### **ATTRIBUTION**

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

# NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): Vittadinia australis Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <a href="https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/vittadinia-australis/">https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/vittadinia-australis/</a> (Date website was queried)

### **MORE INFORMATION**

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