

Olearia polita

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Olearia polita H.D.Wilson et Garn.-Jones

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

OLEPOL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: CD, RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: CD, RR

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: CD, RR

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Rare widely-branched tangled shrub with reddish twigs with two ridges bearing small glossy dark-green rounded leaves that are white underneath inhabiting damp sites in the Hope Valley. Leaves 4-12mm long by 3-6mm wide, tapering abruptly to a winged stalk. Flowers small. Seeds fluffy.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, North West Nelson, near Wangapeka and at Glenhope.

HABITAT

Lowland, riparian Silver beech (*Nothofagus menziesii* (Hook.f.) Oerst.) forest, where it grows in the under storey.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).



Tadmor Saddle. May 2007. Photographer: Kelvin Lloyd, Licence: All rights reserved.



Olearia polita foliage. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub 2-4 m tall. Branches interlacing, strongly divaricating. Bark dark red-brown maturing greyish brown. Branchlets 2-angled so forming a paired conspicuous longitudinal ridge extending along branch length. Young branchlets pubescent near tips. Internodes of long shoots 10-20(30) mm. Short shoots (brachyblasts) opposite, bearing 2-4 leaves and/or 1-5 capitula. Leaves opposite or in opposite fascicles, 4-8(-10) x 3-6(-7) mm, suborbicular, broadly obovate to spatulate, upper surface bright glossy green when fresh, glabrescent, margins red or brown, under surface coated in copious, densely appressed, short silvery white hairs, leaf apex obtuse with a minute apiculus. Petiole (0.5)1.5-3(-4) mm, reddish, narrowly winged. Juvenile leaves similar but with small denticles on leaf margins as well as apex. Capitula in clusters of (1-)2-4(-5). Florets 4-5. Achenes (seeds) 1.7-2 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

This species is readily distinguished from other small-leaved *Olearia* species by the 2-angled branchlets, and bright glossy green (appearing as if polished) upper leaf surfaces. The juvenile foliage is often deeply toothed, and this is also seen on reversion shoots.

FLOWERING

October - November

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Yellow

FRUITING

November to January

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and semi hardwood cuttings. Does best in semi-shade (it is an attractive shrub to plant under taller trees, particularly deciduous species) in a moist, fertile soil. The small flowers are sweetly scented, particularly at night.

THREATS

Threatened by browsing animals, weeds and the fact that most populations occur on private land. Recruitment is potentially limiting some populations.

ETYMOLOGY

olearia: Named after Johann Gottfried Olearius, a 17th-century German scholar, writer of hymns and author of *Specimen Florae Hallensis*

polita: Smooth or polished

WHERE TO BUY

Commercially available from some specialist native plant nurseries.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2006. Description by P.B Heenan and P.J. de Lange (adapted from Wilson & Garnock-Jones 1992) and subsequently published in de Lange et al. (2010).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.

Wilson, H.D.; Garnock-Jones, P. J. 1992: Two new species names in *Olearia* (Asteraceae) from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 30(3): 365-368

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Olearia polita* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/olearia-polita/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/olearia-polita/>

PDF DATE

17 September 2024