

# Olearia cheesemanii

## COMMON NAMES

streamside tree daisy, Cheeseman's tree daisy

## SYNONYMS

*Olearia nitida* var. *angustifolia* Cheeseman, *O. arborescens* var. *angustifolia* Cheesema

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Olearia cheesemanii* Cockayne et Allan

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

OLECHE

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Gradual Decline

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy shrub bearing narrow pointed thin leathery dark green leaves that have an uneven edge inhabiting lowland stream margins. Twigs with a groove along the upper side. Leaves 5-9cm long by 2-3cm wide. Flowers white, in a loose cluster, body nearly 1cm long.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to the North and South Islands. In the North Island known from the Ohinemuri River south to the Tararua Ranges. In the South Island confined to North West Nelson and the vicinity of Westport near Ngakawau.

## HABITAT

Rocky river gorges in or near the flood zone.



Inflorescence, Karangahake Gorge (October).  
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence:  
CC BY-NC.



Shrub in flower, Karangahake Road.  
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence:  
CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub or small tree 0.1-1(-4) m tall. Sparingly to heavily branched depending on growing situation, bark grey, flaking in long strips. Branchlets grooved, densely covered in buff tomentum. Petioles stout, winged, finely tomentose, up to 20 mm long. Leaves (40-)50-90 x 20-30 mm, variable in shape with all types potentially present on the one individual, usually linear to narrow-lanceolate, or oblong-lanceolate, coriaceous, margins sinuate or irregularly but distinctly toothed, apex subacuminate dark green to grey-green above, undersides clad in fine, appressed, silky-hairy, white to pale buff hairs, these darkening markedly along veins and midrib. Inflorescence a lax, much-branched corymb up to 150 mm diam. Capitula 8-9 mm, phyllaries linear-lanceolate, 3-4 mm, ciliolate, ray florets 6-10(-20), narrow, white. Seed a linear finely grooved achene 2-3 mm, pappus-hairs fine, sordid-white, unequal, up to 5 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Most likely to be confused with the allied *O. arborescens* from which it mainly differs by its narrower lanceolate leaves, usually smaller stature (in the wild at least), and habitat preferences.

## FLOWERING

August - January

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## FRUITING

November - June

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from semi-hardwood cuttings and fresh seed. A very fast growing and attractive floriferous shrub. Tends to be short-lived. Does best in moist soils in sun or semi-shade.

## THREATS

Threatened by weeds such as mistflower and buddleia that invade and smother the gorge side habitat of *O. cheesemanii*. Surveys of northern sites indicated a population structure skewed toward senescent adults, with few juveniles and seedlings persisting due to competition from these and other smaller weed species. River conversion for hydroelectric schemes may also be a threat. Dams disrupt natural flood cycles that help create new habitat and dislodge weeds. Accurate figures on decline are not available, and the exact species distribution is unknown. It would seem this species has its strong holds in northern South Island. Further survey is likely to reveal new populations, especially in the Kaimai Ranges, Mamaku Plateau, Raukumara, Te Urewera, Ruahine and Tararua Ranges.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**cheesemanii**: Named after Thomas Frederick Cheeseman (1846 - 15 October 1923) who was a New Zealand botanist and naturalist who, in 1906, produced *The Manual of the New Zealand Flora*.

## WHERE TO BUY

Commonly sold by most commercial nurseries.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2006. Description adapted from Allan (1961) - supplemented with observations made from fresh specimens.

Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](#) licence.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

**MORE INFORMATION**

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

**PDF DATE**

17 September 2024