

# Brachyscome humilis

## SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1943)

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Brachyscome humilis* G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

BRAHUM

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36-37, 37

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | Data Deficient

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Central Otago (Rock and Pillar Range)

## HABITAT

Alpine. Inhabiting snowbanks and hollows above 1200 m.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial rosette herb, often forming loose mats. Leaves apetiolate, narrow- spatulate, mostly entire, rarely with 1-2 pairs of shallow teeth near apex, obtuse, glabrous, 5.0-10.0 × 1.0-1.5 mm. Peduncle naked, glabrous except for few glandular hairs below capitulum, 30-45 mm long and 0.3-0.6 mm diameter at flowering, elongating to up to 70 mm at fruiting. Involucral bracts elliptic to narrow-oblong, obtuse and fimbriate to apex, glabrous except for few glandular hairs at base, 2.5-3.0 mm long. Rays 12-22, white, c.3-5 mm long. Disc yellow. Achenes obovoid-oblong, compressed, eglandular, c.1.5 mm long; pappus of bristles c.0.3 mm long

## SIMILAR TAXA

Perhaps most similar to *B. linearis* - which is a species of marginal turf communities around lakes Te Anau, Manapouri and the Mavora Lakes. From that species it differs by its ecology (alpine in snow banks and hollows), larger flowers on longer scapes, hairy capitula and achenes, and longer ray florets.

## FLOWERING

December – February



A plant on Rock and Pillar Range (February).  
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence:  
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## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

January - April

## LIFE CYCLE

Pappate cypselae are dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

## THREATS

Unclear. Probably a Naturally Uncommon species however this species remains very poorly known and until a comprehensive survey is undertaken ascertaining the exact conservation status of this species remains guesswork. It for this reason that it has been listed as Data Deficient. Furthermore, the status of similar plants found on the ultramafics of West Dome and the Livingston Range needs investigation

## ETYMOLOGY

**brachyscome:** From Greek brachys 'short' and comus 'hair', refers to the lack of papys on the fruit

**humilis:** Lowest, dwarf, small, slight

## ATTRIBUTION

Description from: Webb et al (1988)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora.

Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

Webb, C. J.; Sykes, W. R.; Garnock-Jones, P. J. 1988: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. 4. Christchurch, New Zealand, Botany Division, D.S.I.R.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachyscome-humilis/>