

# Haastia minor

## COMMON NAMES

vegetable sheep

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

Orange, Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout perennial forming rounded very compact masses up to 1 x 1 m diameter (usually much less); branchlets with leaves < 15 mm diameter, densely compacted. Leaves c.6-8 x 4-9 mm; apices thickened and crenulate and concealed by dense brush of long tangled whitish hairs, both surfaces or underside only clad in long hairs; veins 3-15, anastomosing above. Receptacle flat or slightly convex, c.5 mm diameter. Involucral bracts linear, obtuse to acute, glabrous except at apices. Achenes compressed, linear, c.2 mm long. Pappus-hairs scarcely thickened, up to 9 mm long, strongly barbellate (especially near apices)

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Haastia minor* is distinguished from *H. pulvinaris* by its much smaller size (only rarely forming hummocks up to 1 x 1 m), branchlets < 15 mm diameter, and by the distinctly whitish tomentum. *Haastia minor* and *H. pulvinaris* could be confused with species of *Raoulia*, especially *R. bryoides*, *R. eximia* and *R. mammillaris*, with which they sometimes grow. From *Raoulia*, *Haastia* is distinguished by the anther-cells which are not tailed, and by the leaves which are > 10 mm long. Recent molecular data suggests that *Haastia* is very closely allied to *Brachyglottis*.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Nelson, Marlborough to Otago (mostly east of the main divide).

## HABITAT

Subalpine and alpine fellfield and rocks among screes.

## THREATS

A naturally uncommon, sparsely distributed plant of high-elevation scree habitats. Although it is not threatened, it is rarely common at any particular place.

## GENUS

Haastia

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Haastia minor* (Laing) C.C.Nicholls, Breitw., J.M.Ward et Pelsler



Travers Range, Nelson Lakes National Park.  
Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken:  
08/01/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Robert Ridge, Nelson Lakes. Photographer:  
John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## SYNONYMS

*Haastia pulvinaris* var. *minor* Laing

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

November - January

## FRUITING

December – February

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

## ETYMOLOGY

**haastia:** After Haast

**minor:** Smaller

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.

Nicholls CC, Breitwieser I, Ward JM, Pelsner PB. 2024. Morphometric analyses of New Zealand giant vegetablesheep lead to the recognition of its two varieties as species: *Haastia pulvinaris* and *Haastia minor* (Senecioneae: Asteraceae). New Zealand Journal of Botany. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2024.2350457>

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

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## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/haastia-minor/>

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