

Brachyscome sinclairii

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Brachyscome sinclairii Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

BRASIN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Found in a wide range of habitats this small perennial herb has petiolate, dull to bright green leaves with lobed margins, the lobes often extending down the petiole. The white and yellow flowers are composite and daisy like.

DISTRIBUTION

South Island; throughout the island

HABITAT

The species is found in a wide range of habitats from sea level to the high alpine zone. Habitats include tussock grassland, frost flats, herbfield, forest margins, cliffs, rocky places, and riverbeds.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The plant is a perennial rosette forming herb. The leaves are spatulate or cuneately narrowed to winged petiole and elliptic-oblong to obovate, with 3 to 9 (usually 5 to 9) pairs of round teeth or lobes (often lyrate-pinnatifid). Sometimes a few leaves are entire. The leaves are obtuse, usually glabrous, sometimes sparsely to moderately clothed in short-stalked glandular hairs on both surfaces or just on the margins. The leaves are 10mm to 45mm long (usually 10mm to 30mm) long, and 4mm to 15mm (usually 4mm to 10mm) wide. The peduncles are usually naked, sometimes with 1 scale-like leaf, sparsely to moderately clothed in glandular hairs at least near the capitulum. Peduncles 30mm to 110mm long and 0.8mm to 1.2mm in diameter at flowering, extending up to 150mm to 180mm long at fruiting. The involucre bracts are elliptic-oblong to spatulate, obtuse and fimbriate at their apex, and glandular at least at their base. The involucre bracts are 3.5mm to 6 mm long. The numerous white ray florets are 6mm to 12mm (usually 6mm to 10mm) long. The disc florets are yellow. The achenes are obovoid, compressed, eglandular and 2mm to 3mm long with a pappus of few bristles that are 0.1mm to 0.3mm long. (Description adapted from Webb et al, 1988)



Ashburton Lakes. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 13/12/2012, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.



Ashburton Lakes. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 13/12/2012, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

SIMILAR TAXA

Species in the genus *Brachyscome* are not well defined and can be hard to distinguish from each other. *Brachyscome sinclairii* is most similar to *B. radicata* and *B. montana*, with some features overlapping with both these two species. *B. sinclairii* is clearly distinguished from the other common species, *B. radicata* by its the strongly compressed, eglandular achenes. *B. radicata* has glandular achenes, a more branched habit, and leaves which generally have fewer teeth, these generally being close to the apex of the leaf. *B. montana* is apparently distinct from both *B. sinclairii* and *B. radicata* due to its diversiform, greyish green, glandular hairy and somewhat fleshy leaves, but both *B. radicata* and *B. sinclairii* can have glandular hairy leaves, so this is not a good distinguishing trait.

FLOWERING

August to May, but predominantly from November to March (Webb et al., 1988)

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

LIFE CYCLE

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

SUBSTRATE

Many rock types and substrates including alluvium, greywacke, schist, sandstone, and others.

ETYMOLOGY

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

sinclairii: After Sinclair (c. 1796–1861). Colonial Secretary and naturalist.

ATTRIBUTION

Page edited by Rowan Hindmarsh-Walls (29 May 2022)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Hooker, J.D. 1864: Handbook of the New Zealand Flora: a systematic description of the native plants of New Zealand and the Chatham, Kermadec's, Lord Auckland's, Campbell's and Macquarie's Islands. Part I. Reeve, London.

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. Botany Division DSIR, Christchurch.

MORE INFORMATION

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