

# Euphrasia australis

## FAMILY

Orobanchaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Euphrasia australis* Petrie

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

EUPAUS

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island. West Otago and Fiordland, subalpine to almost sea level in fiords.

## HABITAT

Subalpine to almost sea level in fiords. Boggy ground in sub-alpine meadow, shrubby-tussockland, tussock grassland.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender sparingly-branched annual herb 50-200 mm tall, branches bifariously white-pubescent and more or less glandular-pilose, internodes very elongated. Leaves sessile, up to 10-12 x 7-8 mm, more or less obovate-cuneate with 2-3 pairs of acute teeth, sometimes almost suborbicular with teeth obtuse, glabrous or with sparse long glandular hairs, sometimes sparsely white-pubescent, margins thickened and revolute. Flowers, few towards the tips of the branches, pedicels short or up to 10 mm in flower, usually elongated and up to 25 mm in fruit. Calyx 4-6 mm long, sometimes enlarged in fruit up to 12 x 8 mm, pilose with long glandular hairs and sometimes also white-pubescent; lobes acute to obtuse, margins and midribs thickened. Corolla white, approximately 10-12 mm long; tube slightly to much longer than calyx; lobes of lower lip 1.5-3 mm wide, entire. Anthers yellow to golden brown, margins sparsely hairy to glabrous, awns slender, almost equal. Capsule approximately equal to calyx or much shorter, approximately 5-6 x 5 mm, obovate, finely setose at apex; seeds approximately 4-6 per locule.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Similar in appearance to *Euphrasia zelandica* and was previously thought to be merely a varietal of that species. *E. zelandica* is generally smaller in stature than *E. australis*, up to 100 mm high compared to 200 mm, having a slenderer appearance. The flower pedicels are longer on *E. australis*, up to 10mm compared to up to 4 mm in *E. zelandica*. *E. zelandica* has shorter white hairs compared longer more sparse glandular hairs on *E. australis*. *E. zelandica* has a larger distribution range (see that species fact sheet), *E. australis* is restricted to West Otago and Fiordland.



Mt Burns, February. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## FLOWERING

November - April

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## FRUITING

December - April

## LIFE CYCLE

Seeds is dispersed by wind and possibly water and ballistic projection (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## ETYMOLOGY

**euphrasia:** Eye-medicine

**australis:** Southern

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

An early entity known as *E. crosby-smithii* Petrie was described from a single collecting "Wet alpine meadow on Mount Cleughearn, Fiord County, about 5,000 ft.; J. Crosby Smith". The type sheet (W 4852) contains 3 tiny plants 20 mm high with flowers and capsules on pedicels up to 5 mm long. Apart from unusually small size these cannot be separated from the other *E. australis/zelandica* forms of Fiordland

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by M. Ward (30 October 2020) Description adapted from Allan (1961).

## 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* 11: 285-309

Allan, H. H. 1961. *Flora of New Zealand*. Volume 1. Wellington: Government Printer. pg.857.

Petrie, D. 1916. Descriptions of New Native Phanerogams. *Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute* 48: pg. 186-192.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: Ward, M.D. (Year at time of access): *Euphrasia australis* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/euphrasia-australis/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/euphrasia-australis/>