

Euphrasia dyeri

COMMON NAME

creeping eyebright

FAMILY

Orobanchaceae

AUTHORITY

Euphrasia dyeri Wettst.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

EUPDYE

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South and Stewart Islands, Mountains of northwest Nelson (Mount Goulard), Otago, Southland and Stewart Island; Mount Somers, Canterbury.

HABITAT

Montane bogs up to 1500m a.s.l.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Delicate succulent annual herb sometimes flowering when less than 10 mm high, occasionally much elongated with branched stems up to 100 mm long; branches usually flattened with membranous wings, usually laxly ascending, occasionally rooting at nodes but not mat-forming, glabrous or with sparse flattened jointed hairs. Leaves sessile, 4-6 (-8) x (2-) 4-6 mm, upper ½ to ⅓ digitately divided into (3-) 5-7 acute to acuminate, linear, subequal, spreading segments 1.5-3 mm long, cuneate and subsheathing at base, membranous when dry, glabrous or setose on margins and tips, occasionally glandular hairs present. Flowers, few towards the tips of the branches on flattened membranous pedicels up to 20 mm long. Calyx 4-5 (-7) mm long, divided 1/3-1/2 way; lobes lanceolate, acute, glabrous or setose on margins and tips. Corolla white, 8-15 mm long; tube slender, up to 8 mm, much longer than calyx; lobes of lower lip up to 2 mm wide, entire. Anthers yellow to golden brown, margins glabrous or nearly so, awns slender, almost equal. Capsule longer than calyx, oval, densely setose at apex; ovules 2 per locule, seeds 0.9-1.1 mm long, segment-shaped and angled with a colliculate testa.



Rock & Pillar range, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Euphrasia dyeri, Hawkdun Range. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

Morphologically similar to *Euphrasia repens*, from which it differs by being a plant of subalpine bogs, usually only slightly rooting and not mat-forming; leaves usually larger, divided up to 1/2 way into acute to acuminate subequal segments.

FLOWERING

January – March.

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

February – April.

LIFE CYCLE

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

ETYMOLOGY

euphrasia: Eye-medicine

dyeri: Uncertain, could be named after Robert Allen Dyer, 20th century South African botanist and taxonomist OR Sir William Turner Thiselton-Dyer, 19th century director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Wettstein (1896) separated his species from *E. repens* partly because he considered the 2 ovules in each locule to be apposite, not superposed as described by Hooker (1879) for *E. repens*. By 1961 the placentation had not been further investigated.

By 1961, dehisced capsules have not been seen in this species or in *E. repens*, but available material is meagre. In both species the oblong cotyledons are usually larger than the leaves and often persist through the whole life cycle, especially in very small plants.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by M.D. Ward (6 November 2020). Description adapted from Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/euphrasia-dyeri/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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