

Hypericum involutum

COMMON NAME

grassland hypericum

FAMILY

Hypericaceae

AUTHORITY

Hypericum involutum (Labill.) Choisy

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

HYPINV

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 16

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, SO

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North and South Islands from Te Pahi south to Southland but scarce north of the Waikato.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Inhabiting dry and open sites such on and around rock outcrops, in open scrub, *Kunzea* forest/woodland, and in sparsely-vegetated tussock-grassland.



Te Pahi. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 06/11/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Te Pahi. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 06/11/2007, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Herbaceous perennial, woody stock, not rhizomatous, up to 250 mm high. Stems erect, up to 1.3 mm diameter, quadrangular, 4-lined, black glands absent, unbranched or branched only from base. Leaves 2.5-20.0 × 0.7-6.8 mm, lanceolate, ovate, ovate-elliptic, elliptic-oblong or broadly elliptic, glabrous, reticulate tertiary veins absent; pellucid glands conspicuous; black glands absent; apex subacute or obtuse; margin entire and sometimes recurved; base subcordate or ± amplexicaul; sessile. Inflorescence terminal, lax dichasial cymes, flowers 1-10 per cyme, corolla up to 17.0 mm. Pedicels 4.0-40.0 mm long. Bracteoles absent. Sepals 5, 3.0-7.0 × 1.0-2.5 mm, unequal, lanceolate, elliptic, elliptic-oblong or broadly elliptic; pellucid glands abundant, usually linear; black glands absent; apex acute or subacute; margin entire. Petals up to 8.0 mm long and up to 4.5 mm wide, > sepals, golden yellow, black glands absent, persistent after anthesis. Stamens not in bundles, 30-43, 3.3-4.5 mm long, < petals; anthers 0.25-0.3 mm long, anther gland absent. Ovary 3.0-3.5 × 1.5-2.5 mm, ovoid. Styles 3, 1.0-1.8 mm long, < ovary. Fruit capsule, 5.0-9.5 × 3.2-4.5 mm, ovoid, light brown, conspicuously protruding beyond sepals, coriaceous. Seeds 0.6-0.85 × 0.25-0.4 mm, oblong, terete, yellow to yellow-brown, longitudinal ribs, apices obtuse or rounded. Description from Heenan (2011).

SIMILAR TAXA

Hypericum involutum is distinguished from all other New Zealand *Hypericum* species by the absence of black glands, erect, quadrangular and 4-lined stems that branch from a woody base, 3 styles, and the inflorescence is terminal and with solitary flowers or with few-flowered dichasial cymes.

FLOWERING

October - March

FLOWER COLOURS

Orange, Yellow

FRUITING

November - June

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds are wind and water dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown in an open, free-draining soil. Inclined to be somewhat weedy.

ETYMOLOGY

hypericum: From the Greek hyper (above) and eikon (picture), the plant was hung above pictures to ward off evil spirits

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (17 April 2011). Description from Heenan (2011)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Heenan, P.B. 2011: Taxonomic notes on the New Zealand flora: *Hypericum gramineum* and *Hypericum involutum* (Hypericaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 49: 133-139.

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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hypericum-involutum/>