

Argyrotegium mackayi

SYNONYMS

Raoulia mackayi Buchanan, *Gnaphalium traversii* var. *mackayi* (Buchanan) Kirk, *Gnaphalium mackayi* (Buchanan) Cockayne, *Euchiton mackayi* (Buchanan) Anderb.

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Argyrotegium mackayi (Buchanan) J.Ward et Breitwieser

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

ARGMAC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island: Ruahine and Tararua Ranges; South Island: throughout. Stewart Island: Mt Anglem only

HABITAT

Montane to alpine bogs, herbfield and grassland, often in wet sites and commoner in wetter areas

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).



Mangahaia, Ruahine, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Old Man Range, Otago. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb with much-branched stems terminating in leafy rosettes and usually forming mats, 10-70 mm tall. Leaves mostly in basal rosettes; basal leaves cuneate to short petiole, densely white-tomentose on both surfaces including mid-vein but usually excluding petiole on upper, plane, elliptic to broad-elliptic or spatulate, usually obtuse, sometimes acute, mucronate, 3-20 × 2-6 mm; cauline leaves 1-few, apetiolate, reduced upwards and becoming ovate-triangular to linear, amplexicaul and finally scalelike. Capitula c.2-4 mm diameter, usually solitary, very rarely 2 together; subtending leaves < capitula; scape terminal, simple, erect, amongst leaves at flowering, usually elongating somewhat at fruiting. Involucral bracts elliptic-oblong, obtuse to subacute, 4.5-6.0 mm long; stereome green or tinged reddish purple at apex; lamina pale brown, with darker band at base; gap and margins clear or tinged reddish purple. Achenes glabrous, c.1.2 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Both *Argyrotegium mackayi* and *A. nitidulum* are mat-forming species with solitary terminal flowers. *Argyrotegium nitidulum* is distinguished from *A. mackayi* by the leaf hairs which are more or less straight, antrorse, appressed and glossy rather than tangled and white.

FLOWERING

October - February

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

FRUITING

December - April

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

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(4): 285-309.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/argyrotegium-mackayi/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/argyrotegium-mackayi/>