

Euphrasia revoluta

COMMON NAME

eyebright

FAMILY

Orobanchaceae

AUTHORITY

Euphrasia revoluta Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

EUPREV

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands, Ruahine and Tararua Ranges southwards.

HABITAT

Subalpine boggy and open places, tussock-grassland, and herb-fields.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Low tufted perennial herb sometimes with woody stock up to 2 mm diameter; stems slender, rooting at nodes and stoloniferous, branches numerous, erect, up to approximately 50 mm tall, slender to filiform, white-pubescent. Leaves sessile, usually rather close-set, 2-10 x 1-5 mm, narrow- to rhomboid-cuneate with 1 pair of small acute teeth below large triangular or rounded terminal lobe, glabrous, margins thickened and revolute. Flowers single or few at tips of branches, subsessile or on white-pubescent pedicels up to approximately 5 mm long. Calyx 5-8 mm long, white-pubescent, evenly or subevenly divided approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ way; lobes acute to subacute, margins and midribs thickened and reddish. Corolla white, 10-15 mm long and diameter; tube usually much longer than calyx; lobes of lower lip 3-5 mm wide, entire, or shallowly emarginate. Anthers red-brown, margins hairy, awns unequal, stout. Capsule more or less equal to calyx, approximately 6-7 x 3-4 mm, oblong to obovate, sparsely setose at apex; seeds numerous, 1-1.5 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

See 'Taxonomic Notes' below.



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

FLOWERING

(November-) December – February (-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

revoluta: Rolled back from margins or apex

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Allan (1961) notes: Plants varying markedly in size, habit, leaf-shape, pubescence, and floral characters have hitherto been included under this name, but those matching the type constitute a well-defined and easily recognizable taxon to which the name is here restricted. Most Nelson specimens in *E. revoluta* folders belong to the closely related *Euphrasia townsonii*, which differs most obviously in long pedicels and glandular-hairy calyx. Other plants sometimes included are referable rather to *Euphrasia laingii*, while *Euphrasia drucei* and *Euphrasia petriei* are two further segregants from the complex.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by M.D. Ward (11 November 2020) Description adapted from Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H. H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Volume 1. Wellington: Government Printer. Page 854.

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/euphrasia-revoluta/>