

Abrotanella caespitosa

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Abrotanella caespitosa Petrie ex Kirk

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

ABRCAE

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

North and South Islands. Ruahine and Tararua Range, Mount Taranaki in the North; widespread from Kahurangi to Fiordland National parks in the South.

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine 900-1800m Often common but inconspicuous in bogs and permanently wet hollows, including snowbanks.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Mat forming herb, up to 1 m or more across. Branching and rooting stems with very small leafy rosettes; stock rather stout; Leaves rosulate, at nodes, (6-) 10-15 × 1-1.5 mm, narrow-linear, obtuse, spreading to recurved, coriaceous, mottled dark green. Peduncles (sunk among the leaves at stem tips when ripening stalks elongate) up to 10 mm long in fruit, with 1-2 short linear bracts or nude. Capitula up to 2-4 mm diameter; phyllaries 6-8, approximately 2 mm long, broad-oblong, obtuse, veins often obscure, margins scarious. Florets 6-8, not strongly dimorphic; achenes approximately 2 mm. long, fusiform to obovoid, glabrous, obscurely ribbed to smooth.

SIMILAR TAXA

Could be confused with *A. fertilis*, which has longer (20 mm) peduncles when in fruit.



Rock and Pillar. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Mt Burns, Southland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 11/12/2010, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FLOWERING

October-February

FRUITING

November-March

LIFE CYCLE

Cypselae are primarily dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

ETYMOLOGY

abrotanella: Little Artemisia (known as Abrotanus by ancient herbalists)

caespitosa: From the Latin caespes 'tuft' or 'sod of turf', meaning growing in tufts or patches

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Mark (2012) and Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H. H. 1961. *Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1*. Wellington: Government Printer. 693 pp.

Mark, A. F. 2012. *Above the Treeline: A Nature Guide to Alpine New Zealand*. Craig Potton Publishing, Nelson. 199 pp.

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.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/abrotanella-caespitosa/>