

Arctotheca calendula

COMMON NAME

Cape weed

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Arctotheca calendula (L.) Levyns

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

ARCCAL

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Coastal situations especially sand dunes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Annual rosette herb with sprawling stems rarely reaching 30 cm. The leaves are lobed up to 30 x 5 cm and held on somewhat branched and leafy stems. Flower heads are solitary and are approximately 3.5 cm across with a black disc and yellow rays.

SIMILAR TAXA

May be confused with closely related *Gazania rigens* and *G. linearis* these also have yellow flowers, but *A. calendula* has lobed leaves and the stems lack the latex contained in *Gazania* species. May also be confused with *Arctotis stoechadifolia*, but this species has purple florets on the flowers.

FLOWERING

October, November, December

FLOWER COLOURS

Black, Yellow

FRUITING

October, November, December, January, February, March, April

YEAR NATURALISED

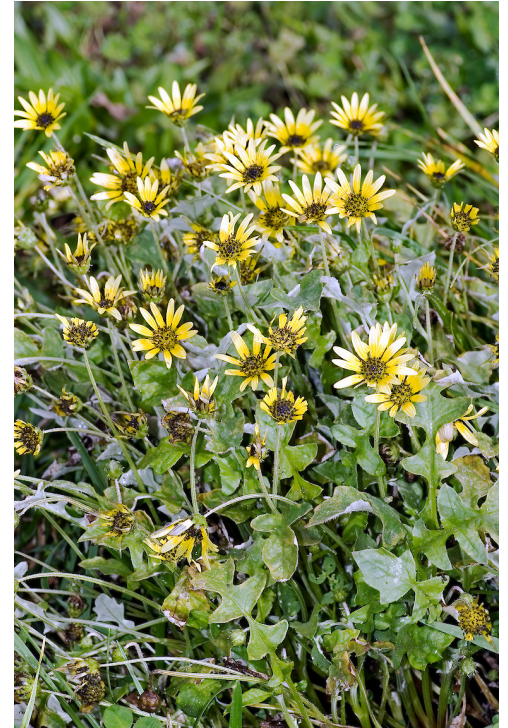
1870

ORIGIN

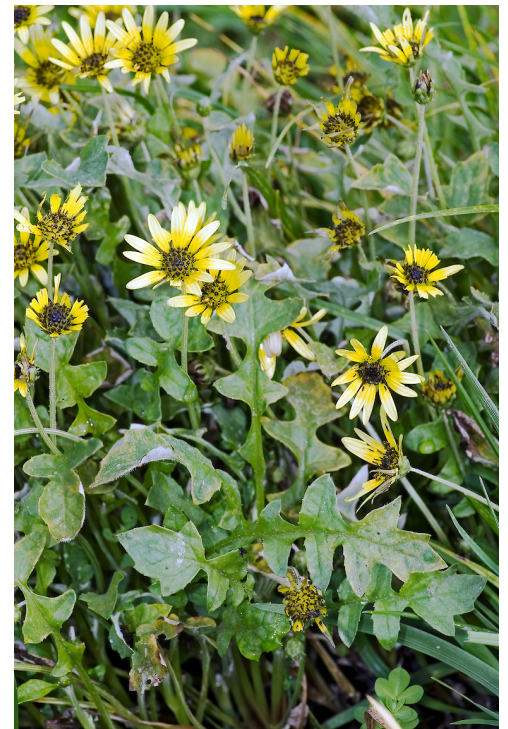
South Africa

ETYMOLOGY

calendula: From the Latin word *kalendae*, first day of the month when interest was paid; refers to the plant's long flowering season.



Hutt River. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 06/05/2006, Licence: CC BY.



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REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Accidental

LIFE CYCLE

Annual, producing prolific amounts of seed that are dispersed by people, wind, sand movement.

TOLERANCES

Can tolerate salt and poor soils in coastal situations.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/arctotheca-calendula/>