

Brachyscome pinnata

COMMON NAME

Lees Valley daisy

SYNONYMS

Brachyscome sinclairii var. *pinnata* (Hook.f.) Allan

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Brachyscome pinnata Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

BRAPIN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 18$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, RR

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Canterbury only. Allan (1961) (as *B. sinclairii* var. *pinnata* (Hook.f.) Allan) considered this plant to be widespread throughout the eastern South Island and Stewart Island. However, herbarium evidence suggests it has always been a Canterbury endemic.

HABITAT

Exact habitat preferences are uncertain. This species has been recently gathered from only one location. Here it grows amongst short grasses (mainly *Rytidosperma* spp.), small, annual weeds and mosses or at the base of kānuka (*Kunzea robusta* de Lange et Toelken) shrubs on stony alluvium shrubland. Old herbarium specimens provide few if any useful habitat details.



In cult. Jan 2009. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.



Brachyscome pinnata. Photographer: Carol Jensen, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rosette forming, stoloniferous herb of open sites within short tussock grassland, producing small, diffuse, circular patches. Leaves succulent fleshy, coriaceous, 15–80 × 5–8 mm, dark green, red-green or bronze-green, narrowly linear-oblong to lanceolate, increasing in width toward apex, pinnatifid or deeply lobed, lobes 8–10 (or more), orbicular, close-set (not or scarcely overlapping) entire. Flowers on solitary stalks 1–4 (or more) per rosette; 50–180 mm long, slender, wiry, dark brown to brown-black, somewhat glandular pubescent toward capitula. Capitula 15–25 mm diameter. Phyllaries narrow-oblong to lanceolate, 4–8 mm long, usually glabrous, sometimes minutely glandular pubescent; margins finely ciliolate to erose. Ray-florets white, 8–12 mm long. Disc-florets yellow. Achenes not seen.

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to, and generally included by most recent treatments of New Zealand *Brachyscome* within *B. sinclairii* Hook.f. From that species, *B. pinnata* is best distinguished by its consistently pinnate (deeply lobed) leaves. There is some evidence (B.G.Murray pers. comm.) to suggest that there are chromosome (karyotype) differences as well.

FLOWERING

October - May

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

Unknown - the only known wild population does not appear to set viable seed

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from division of whole plants. An excellent pot plant or species for a rock garden. It will not tolerate much shade and does best in a sunny aspect planted within a free draining, fertile soil.

THREATS

Seriously at risk from extinction and only known from a single site with 4 patches, possibly representing separate clones. Viable seed has not been produced by any of these plants. The plants might be so closely related that they will be unable to self or cross with each other. The species' habitat is vulnerable to seasonal drought, fire (the only known habitat was completely burned over several years ago), and weed invasion. The release of rabbit calicivirus near the wild *B. pinnata* population and subsequent loss of rabbits has led to a change in vegetation from the open, stunted grassland the species seems to need to one dominated by tall grasses. Now seriously threatened by grass competition such that the plants need to be regularly weeded.

ETYMOLOGY

brachyscome: From Greek brachys 'short' and comus 'hair', refers to the lack of papys on the fruit

pinnata: From the Latin pinna 'feather', in botany pinnatus 'pinnate' refers an arrangement of leaves, veins or branches in rows along a central axis, similar to the structure of a feather.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 October 2003. Description from de Lange et al. (2010).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Christchurch, Canterbury University Press. 471 p.

Johnson, A. T., Smith, H. A. (1972). Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning. Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachyscome-pinnata/>