

# Drosera auriculata

## COMMON NAME

sundew

## SYNONYMS

*Drosera circinervia* Colenso, *D. stylosa* Colenso, *Drosera peltata* subsp. *auriculata* ( Planch. ) B.J.Conn

## FAMILY

Droseraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Drosera auriculata* Planch.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

DROAUR

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 32

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. North and South Islands to about south Canterbury, northern Otago and south Westland/ Present in Australia

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane, on recently exposed and naturally open ground, clay pans, in low scrub, on lava. Often abundant following fire.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

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



*Drosera auriculata*. Photographer: Wayne Bennett, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 16/10/2004, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tuberous herb. Plants usually olive-green in exposed locations, rarely richly maroon; tuber ovoid to globose, up to 10 × 8 mm; surface white to red, often in a papery sheath; vertical stolon 20–80 mm long. Stem erect, usually simple, sometimes shortly branched, 90–600 mm long, glabrous. Leaves often in a flat basal rosette and cauline; basal leaves 4–19, the lamina ovate, elliptic, orbicular or reniform, 1.8–3.5 × 2–6 mm wide on a linear petiole 5.0–17.0 × 1.2 mm wide; 9–36 cauline leaves alternate, the lamina crescentic, 1.5–5.5 × 2.0–5.5 mm, with acute angles, on petiole 3–23 mm long. Inflorescence a 1-sided raceme 2–14-flowered; peduncle usually 6–50 mm long, but up to 80 mm; pedicels 1–14 mm long. Sepals 2.0–6.0 × 0.9–2.6 mm, ovate, elliptic and rarely obovate, glabrous with an entire to irregularly serrulate margin. Petals 3.0–10.0 × 1.5–5 mm, white or pink, obovate, cuneate, apex emarginate, sometimes obtuse and rarely truncate. Styles 3, 0.6–1.4 mm long, divided into a total of c.15–30 cylindrical segments. Seeds 0.8–1.6 mm long, cylindrical with a shallowly reticulated surface.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Drosera auriculata* could only be confused only with *D. hookeri*, with which it often grows in Northland and from which it differs by the glabrous rather than hairy sepals and cylindrical rather than ovoid to arachniform (i.e. peanut-shaped) shallowly reticulated seeds (rather than deeply pitted seeds) which are > 1 mm long, rather than 0.5–8.0 mm long. Sometimes the seeds of *Drosera hookeri* can be cylindrical, and so a little like those of *D. auriculata*, but in these cases they can be distinguished from *D. auriculata* by their smaller size and deeply pitted testa.

## FLOWERING

September - February

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

## FRUITING

October - April

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown in pots from seed or from the small overwintering bulbils. Quite easily grown in this way. In suitable conditions it can naturalise itself.

## ETYMOLOGY

**drosera:** Dewy

**auriculata:** Small-eared

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (22 March 2012). Description adapted from Gibson et al. (2012).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Gibson, R.; Conn, B.J.; Bruhl, J.J. 2012: Morphological evaluation of the *Drosera peltata* complex (Droseraceae). *Australian Systematic Botany* 25: 49–80.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Drosera auriculata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/drosera-auriculata/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/drosera-auriculata/>