

Euphrasia drucei

COMMON NAME

eyebright

SYNONYMS

Previously known as *Euphrasia revoluta* Hook. f.

FAMILY

Orobanchaceae

AUTHORITY

Euphrasia drucei Ashwin

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, OL, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, Tararua Range.

HABITAT

Abundant in boggy or open places in subalpine tussock or herbfield.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb sometimes arising from woody stock; stems generally woody at base, often prostrate and rooting in lower parts, branches erect, 30-100 mm tall, generally evenly pubescent. Leaves sessile, usually close-set, spreading, 3-10 x 3-6 mm, obovate to obovate-cuneate to suborbicular, usually broadest some distance below tip, subequally 3-lobed at tip or rather evenly 3-5-crenate or -toothed, margins thickened and sometimes glossy. Flowers few at tips of branches, pedicels short, hidden. Calyx 6-9 mm. long, glabrous or nearly so, unevenly divided 1/4-1/2 way; lobes obtuse to subacute, margins and midribs thickened. Corolla white, up to 20 mm long and diameter; tube longer than calyx; lower lip little longer than upper, lobes 5-8 mm broad, emarginate. Anthers red-brown, margins hairy, awns usually unequal. Capsule less than or equal to calyx, 5-6 x 3-4 mm, oval to oblong, glabrous; seeds many, 1.5-2 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Related to *Euphrasia monroi* and *Euphrasia laingii* but differing from both in the shape of the leaves; in the crowded leaves and short congested inflorescence, it resembles more *E. monroi* but is a very much smaller plant. It has sometimes been confused with small subalpine forms of *E. cuneata* with which it grows but can be most easily distinguished by the shape of the corolla, the shorter glabrous capsule and lack of small leafy axillary branchlets. Similar small plants have been collected in North-west Nelson, but these are still of uncertain position.



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

FLOWERING

(November-) December – January (-February).

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

January – February (-March).

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds is dispersed by wind and possibly water and ballistic projection (Thorsen et al., 2009).

ETYMOLOGY

euphrasia: Eye-medicine

drucei: Named after Anthony (Tony) Peter Druce, one of New Zealand's most respected field botanist (1920-1999).

NEW ZEALAND BOTANICAL HISTORY

For a brief biography for this plant is named, see this article in [Te Ara - The Encyclopedia of New Zealand](#).

Hundreds of Tony's famed plant lists can be found [here](#) and back-issues of regional Botanical Society Journals which he contributed can be accessed [here](#).

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by M.D. Ward (3 November 2020) Description adapted from Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H. H. 1

961. Flora of New Zealand. Volume 1. Wellington: Government Printer. Page 853.

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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New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/euphrasia-drucei/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/euphrasia-drucei/>