

# Ewartiothamnus sinclairii

## COMMON NAME

Ewartia

## SYNONYMS

*Gnaphalium sinclairii* Hook.f., *Ewartia sinclairii* (Hook.f.) Cheeseman,

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Ewartiothamnus sinclairii* (Hook.f.) Anderb.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Marlborough, where it is virtually confined to streams draining into the upper Awatere and Clarence River Catchments

## HABITAT

Steep rocky gorges, usually on dry, cliff sides overhanging streams and rivers. Occasionally on boulders within streams, or amongst short tussock on steep, rubble strewn slopes.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial subshrub up to 0.8 m tall, much-branched from stout woody stock. Main branches c.3 mm diameter at woody base, clad in sub-appressed to floccose white tomentum, becoming glabrous. Branchlets slender, spreading to ascending, densely white-tomentose, terminated by cymose close clusters of capitula. Leaves imbricate, c.6-10 × 2 mm, spreading from sheathing base, lanceolate- to obovate-spathulate, obtuse, hardly diminishing in size to base of inflorescence, densely clad on both surfaces in white felted tomentum. Capitula c.6 × 4 mm, in clusters of c. 25 forming a head 15-20 mm diameter. Pedicels short, stout, bracts usually aristate. Involucral bracts numerous, 2-seriate; outer with floccose tomentum on back near hardened base, acute to aristate; inner less hairy, c.4 mm long, oblong, with white erect to subradiate tips. Achenes fusiform, hardly 1 mm long, glabrous or nearly so; pappus-hairs c. 3 mm long, thickened and papillose at tips, minutely scaberulous at base.



At Scotts Creek, Raglan Range. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Yeo Stream, Molesworth. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

### **SIMILAR TAXA**

Superficially similar to *Anaphalioides* from which it differs by the conspicuous investiture of white to silvery-white hairs which cover all parts of the plant except the florets. Allan (1961) artificially aligned it with *Helichrysum* from which it differs by the thick covering of hairs and fusiform achenes.

### **FLOWERING**

October - February

### **FRUITING**

November - April

### **LIFE CYCLE**

Pappate cypselae are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

### **PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE**

Easy from fresh seed and cuttings. However difficult to grow in humid climates. Does best in full sun in a free draining, deep soil.

### **THREATS**

A naturally uncommon species which is locally common within its geographically restricted range. Most populations are small, and some might be vulnerable to flooding, land slips and possibly browsing animals.

### **ETYMOLOGY**

**sinclairii**: After Sinclair (c. 1796–1861). Colonial Secretary and naturalist.

### **WHERE TO BUY**

Not commercially available

### **ATTRIBUTION**

Description adapted from Allan (1961)

### **REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING**

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I, Government Printer, Wellington.

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

### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ewartiothamnus-sinclairii/>