

Leucogenes neglecta

COMMON NAME

Marlborough edelweiss

SYNONYMS

None (described in 1995)

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Leucogenes neglecta Molloy

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 56

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Marlborough mountains between the Wairau and Awatere Rivers).

HABITAT

Alpine. Occurring above the climatic tree limit on shattered rock ridges, outcrops, and erosion pavement, usually in soil-filled crevices and on ledges and banks along with a wide range of alpine cushion, mat, tufted, and rosette plants.



Upper Scotts Creek, Branch R. (February).
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence:
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial evergreen alpine subshrubs up to 300 mm tall at flowering. Leafy stems many, ascending to erect, much branched, stiff and woody towards base, 10 mm diameter including leaves. New stems arising at or below ground level, at first far spreading and rooting, later becoming erect. Leaves alternate, sessile, usually erect, appressed, and closely imbricate; narrowly elliptic, slightly concave, 8-15 x 3-5 mm; apex acute, usually thickened beneath; margin entire, smooth; clothed on both surfaces with shining, silvery-blue, appressed tomentum, striate when dry; basal sheath with pale pink margins. Peduncles distinct, 30-60 mm long, terminal on leafy stems, clothed with woolly tomentum and narrow, erect, woolly, leafy bracts c. 15 x 4 mm, with pink basal sheaths. Inflorescence 10-30 mm diameter, consisting of 5-8 capitula arranged in a flat to convex, congested, corymbose cluster, packed with woolly tomentum, and surrounded by 10-15 spreading, narrowly elliptic, acute, woolly, leafy bracts, c. 1.0 x 5 mm, forming a pseudo-ray. Involucral bracts in 2-3 seriate, papery, linear-lanceolate, c. 5.5 mm long, erect, shining, woolly on the back; stereome green, undivided; lamina membranous, flecked with green, finely serrate; margins membranous, transparent, brownish. Receptacle flat or slightly convex, nude. Outer florets filiform, female, 6-10, 1 seriate; corolla yellow, c. 3-4 mm long, slightly dilated towards apex, 4-lobed. Inner florets tubular, hermaphrodite, 10-35; corolla yellow, c. 3-4 mm long, dilated towards apex, 5-lobed. Style arms long, truncate, smooth except for brush of papillae at apex. Anthers yellow, sagittate at base, with short tails. Pappus 1-seriate, c. 3 mm long, slightly shorter in filiform florets, flattened at base, minutely scabrid and shining, barely thickened at tips. Achene spindle-shaped, c. 1.5 mm long, obscurely angled; hairs few, 0.1-0.4 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Leucogenes neglecta is distinguished from other species of *Leucogenes* Beauverd by its long thin stems, narrowly elliptic acute leaves and floral bracts, uniform silvery-blue colour, and geographic distribution, and tetraploid chromosome number ($2n = 56$).

FLOWERING

December to February

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

February to May

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed or cuttings. Best in an alpine house or in a pot. Dislikes humidity.

THREATS

A Naturally Uncommon, range-restricted endemic abundant within its small geographic area and under no obvious threats.

ETYMOLOGY

leucogenes: White genus

neglecta: Overlooked

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Description from Molloy (1995).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Molloy, B.P.J. 1995: Two new species of *Leucogenes* (Inuleae: Asteraceae) from New Zealand, and typification of *L. grandiceps*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 33: 53-63

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/leucogenes-neglecta/>