

Macrolearia angustifolia

COMMON NAME

teteaweke

SYNONYMS

Olearia angustifolia Hook.f., Olearia angustata J.B.Armstr. nom. illegit.

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Macrolearia angustifolia (Hook.f.) Saldivia

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

OLEANG

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Bushy small tree with narrow leathery saw-edged dark green leaves that are white underneath and large whiteish daisy-like heads inhabiting coastal forest on Bluff and Stewart Island. Leaves 7-15cm long by 1-2cm wide, widest at base and tapering to tip, many even small thick teeth along edge. Flowers 3.5-5cm wide, petals white, centre purple.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Locally present on the Bluff Peninsula at the southern tip of the South Island. More common on Rakiura/Stewart Island and surrounding islets.

HABITAT

Coastal habitats in “muttonbird scrub” usually overlying peat. Never far from the sea.

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and cuttings but very difficult to maintain in cultivation. Dislikes humidity and drought, and should be grown in a cool, damp, well drained soil, ideally near the sea. Plants are prone to sudden collapse during times of stress.



Olearia angustifolia on the Bluff coast, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Foliage of Olearia angustifolia Bluff coast, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

THREATS

Locally common and secure over large parts of its range. However, some of the eastern populations on the Southland coast which are very fragmented and small and in decline. The species is vulnerable to trampling from livestock and is browsed by possums, deer, goats and livestock.

ETYMOLOGY

angustifolia: From the Latin *angustus* 'narrow, constricted' and *folius* 'leaf', meaning narrow-leaved

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally offered by specialist native plant nurseries.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Together with *Macrolearia chathamica*, this species is clearly allied to the Fiordland coast / Rakiura / Stewart Island endemic *M. oporina*, such that some botanists believing them allopatric had considered them all varieties / subspecies of each other. This view, which was unpublished but widely used anyway was not upheld by Saldivia et al. (2022) who established the genus *Macrolearia*, in the process reviewing the status of the species previously treated as macrocephalous *Olearia*.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Saldivia, P.; Wagstaff, S.J.; Breitwieser, I.; Orlovich, D.A.; Lord, J.M. 2022: A Generic Taxonomic Synopsis of the *Pleurophyllum* Clade (Asteraceae: Astereae: Celmisiinae) with the Recognition of the New Zealand Endemic New Genus *Macrolearia*. *Systematic Botany* 47: 607–634

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Macrolearia angustifolia* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/macrolearia-angustifolia/>