

Olearia adenocarpa

COMMON NAME

Canterbury Plains tree daisy

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Olearia adenocarpa Heenan et Molloy

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, RF

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, De, RF

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, De, RF

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Rare shrub to 1.5m tall with many upright thin twigs arising from trailing branches and bearing clusters of oval dark green leaves that are bright white on the underside and inhabiting the Canterbury Plains. Flowers small, outer surface hairy (lens needed). Fruit dry, with mostly blob-tipped hairs (lens needed).

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Canterbury Plains. Known from the vicinity of Christchurch (West Melton), Rakaia Island, and Te Pirita.

HABITAT

A lowland species of recently deposited alluvial gravels and sands.



Weedons Ross Road. Brian Molloy in image. August 2002. Photographer: Peter B. Heenan, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Waimaki Floodplain. Typical habitat. Photographer: Peter B. Heenan, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Openly branched, trailing deciduous to semi-deciduous shrub 1.2–1.5 m tall, up to 1.5 m diameter. Branches originating from near or below ground level, widely spreading usually spreading to decumbent, sometimes upright; sometimes rhizomatous. Leaves 3–14 × 2–4 mm, narrowly obovate to broadly obovate or oval, opposite or in fascicles on brachyblasts, upper surfaces light green, grey–green to brown–green with a silvery sheen, undersides uniformly silvery white, base attenuate to cuneate, apex obtuse with a small red to red-brown apiculus. Capitula 1–6 per brachyblast. Pedicels 1.2–4.0 mm long, densely covered with appressed hairs. Involucral bracts 18–22, 4–5-seriate, outer surfaces hairy. Florets 8–12, white. Achenes 2.0–2.5 mm long, light brown, sparsely to moderately covered in sessile glandular hairs.

SIMILAR TAXA

Perhaps most closely allied to *O. odorata* Petrie, from which it can be distinguished by its smaller size.

FLOWERING

January - February

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

February - March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from semi hardwood and hardwood cuttings and fresh seed.

THREATS

Severely threatened by browsing animals, habitat loss/modification, and weed invasion. Fenced plants are vulnerable to overtopping by pasture grasses.

ETYMOLOGY

olearia: Named after Johann Gottfried Olearius, a 17th-century German scholar, writer of hymns and author of *Specimen Florae Hallensis*

Previously recorded as *Olearia* aff. *odorata* (CHR 386084; Canterbury Plains) in de Lange *et al.* 2004; Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 45–76.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (14 April 2006). Description by P.B Heenan (adapted from Heenan & Molloy (2004) and subsequently published in de Lange *et al.* (2010).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R. and Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: *Threatened Plants of New Zealand*. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.

Heenan, P.B. and Molloy, B.P.J. 2004: Taxonomy, ecology and conservation of *Olearia adenocarpa* (Asteraceae), a new species from braided riverbeds in Canterbury, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42(1): 21–36.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/olearia-adenocarpa/>