

# Olearia angulata

## SYNONYMS

*Olearia albida* var. *angulata* (Kirk) Allan

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Olearia angulata* Kirk

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.432

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Data Deficient

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small rounded tree bearing wavy leathery pale green oblong leaves inhabiting coastal sites in northern North Island. Twigs ridged and square in cross-section. Leaves very blunt at base, 4-7cm long by 2cm wide, edge very wavy, veins sunken into upper surface. Flowers white, in clusters. Seeds fluffy.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Known with certainty from Te Paki, and in scattered sites along the western North Island coastline to near Mokau. At times it can be locally common - such as along the southern Kawhia Harbour. But it is more usually uncommon, often represented at any one site by only a handful of trees. Outside Te Paki there seem to be no genuine eastern North Island occurrences.

## HABITAT

A coastal tree of rocky headlands, cliff faces, ultramafic shrublands and dune forests. Usually found in the most exposed situations.



In cultivation. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mar 2007. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub or small tree up to 5 m tall. Branchlets 4-angled, grooved, clad in tightly appressed to loose somewhat resinous white hairs. Leaves 4-7 cm, hairless, resinous yellow-green to dark green above, clad in firmly appressed, white to silvery-white hairs beneath, very leathery, oblong (rarely ovate-oblong), margins very strongly undulate. Inflorescences on stout stalks 3-5 cm long, capitula (flower heads) numerous, compact, each 4-5 mm long, with 2-5 florets (flowers) only. Cypsela (seed) surmounted by yellowish, very coarse, pappus (whorl of hairs making up the "parachute" above the seed).

## SIMILAR TAXA

A distinct, though somewhat cryptic species, often confused with *O. albida* but distinguished by its much smaller stature, typical oblong leaves whose margins always strongly undulate (in shade or sun), usually resinous yellow-green foliage (though dark green colour variants occur throughout the species range), smaller, compact inflorescences, with shorter, fewer-flowered capitula, by the coarser pappus hairs, and by the chromosome number ( $2n = c. 432$  in *O. angulata*,  $2n = c. 324$  in *O. albida*).

## FLOWERING

January to May

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

March to July

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

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

## THREATS

*Olearia angulata* is probably not threatened. However, it is not well known, easily confused with the more widespread *O. albida*, and so there are few recent accurate herbarium and site records.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**angulata:** From the Latin *angulatus* 'cornered or angular'

## WHERE TO BUY

Commonly sold by most retail nurseries, often as *Olearia albida* var. *angulata*

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 August 2003. Description modified from Allan (1961)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Olearia angulata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/olearia-angulata/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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