

Ozothamnus leptophyllus

COMMON NAME

tauhinu

SYNONYMS

Calea leptophylla G.Forst., *Cassinia leptophylla* (G.Forst.) R.Br., *Olearia xanthophylla* Colenso, *Cassinia fulvida* var. *montana*; *Cassina glossophylla* Cass., *Cassinia retorta* A.Cunn., *Cassinia vauvilliersii* var. *serpentina* Cockayne & Allan

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Ozothamnus leptophyllus (G.Forst.) Breitw. et J.M.Ward

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

OZOLEP

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 26-28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Grey or yellow-green bushy shrub.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura and Auckland Islands. Found throughout.

HABITAT

Coastal to subalpine shrubland and scrub.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).



Pencarrow coast, Wellington Harbour.
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken:
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Pencarrow coast, Wellington Harbour.
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub up to 2 (-3) m. tall. Bark light brown, furrowed. Branchlets slender, greyish-tomentose round in cross-section, young growth sticky, clad in yellowish tomentum, or white and not so sticky. Leaves alternate 2-4 x 1-2.5 mm, narrow-linear to linear-spathulate, margins slightly revolute; lamina erect to spreading from appressed short petiole, coriaceous, becoming glabrous above, beneath clad in white tomentum with prominent midrib. Capitula numerous in small dense corymbs, pedicels short; phyllaries in 3-4 series, outer glabrous to pubescent-ciliate, inner with short white radiating tips; forming a narrow-turbinate involucre 3-4 mm. long. Scales of receptacle numerous, white-tipped; florets 6-10. Achenes approximately 1 mm long, glabrous or nearly so; pappus-hairs up to 4 mm long, slender, slightly thickened at tips.

Flowerheads in flat-topped clusters terminating the branchlets, the red-tipped scales often prominent in bud, white-tipped when open, with white scales among the florets. Seeds fluffy, fawn, dispersed by wind.

SIMILAR TAXA

Ozothamnus vauvilliersii has leaves of obovate order, distinctly widened above middle.

Olearia solandri has leaves opposite or in opposite clusters, young branchlets square in cross-section, and white daisies borne along the leafy shoots.

Olearia nummulariifolia has stiffer, broader leaves, and white daisies borne behind the leafy shoot tip. *Olearia cymbifolia* has stiff leaves with margins rolled down almost to the midrib, and flowers like *Olearia nummulariifolia*.

Brachyglottis cassinioides has leaves whitish green above, white beneath, with margins slightly toothed on shaded shoots, and bright yellow daisy flowers.

FLOWERING

December-March.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

March-April.

ETYMOLOGY

ozothamnus: from the Greek 'ozo' meaning to smell and 'thamnos' meaning shrub; alluding to the fragrant foliage when crushed.

leptophyllus: With slender leaves

TAXONOMIC NOTES

The name *Ozothamnus leptophyllus* (formerly *Cassinia leptophylla*) is used by Wilson & Galloway (1993) to cover all forms of *Ozothamnus* (*Cassinia*) in New Zealand. Historically several forms had been given names at species level, and although some of these might be worthy of recognition as subspecies or varieties, there is no good evidence that the diverse populations represent more than one variable species (Webb et al. 1988).

In the Canterbury/ Westland region, eastern forms from drier habitats tend to have more slender branchlets, narrower, more pointed leaves, and yellower or orange-yellow tomentum. They have been called *C. fulvida*. Further west, and at higher elevations in eastern districts, the branchlets tend to be stouter, the leaves broader and more rounded at the tips, and the tomentum paler yellow. They have been called *C. vauvilliersii*. Another widespread common form in the North Island and the northern end of the South Island has white tomentum and small, narrow leaves 2-4 mm long; the whole bush looks greyish white rather than green from a distance. This is *C. leptophylla* in the narrow sense. It has gone locally wild in a few places in Canterbury such as on the Port Hills where it is escaping from cultivation. Wild forms approaching it lap into Canterbury from the north. Rarely, white forms crop up as single or a few plants in the middle of *C. vauvilliersii*-like populations, although the leaves are larger than in the more northern white populations of typical *C. leptophylla*.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961) and Wilson & Galloway (1993).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H. H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1. Wellington: Government Printer. pg. 726.

Webb, C. J., Sykes, W. R and Garnock-Jones, P. J. 1988. Flora of New Zealand, Vol. IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons. DSIR, Botany Division, Wellington.

Wilson, H. D., & Galloway, T. 1993. Small-leaved shrubs of New Zealand. Manuka Press. pg. 204-205.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ozothamnus-leptophyllus/>