

Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum

SYNONYMS

Gnaphalium luteo-album L., Laphangium luteoalbum (L.) Tzvelev

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum (L.) Hilliard et B.L.Burt

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

PSELUT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 14

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

Not Threatened

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

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

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

ETYMOLOGY

pseudognaphalium: Like Gnaphalium (downy), a related plant

luteoalbum: Yellowish white



Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 03/11/2011, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Inflorescence of Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum s.l. showing immature and open capitula. Whareweka / Science House, Te One, Rekohu / Chatham Island. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Date taken: 04/10/2023, Licence: CC BY.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Pseudognaphalium Krip. is a genus that needs critical evaluation as there is some suggestion that it might be better placed in *Helichrysum* Mill., whilst many botanists favour recognition of *Laphangium* Tzvelev for at least some of those plants referred to *Pseudognaphalium* (e.g., Greuter 2003). These generic issues aside, at the species level the New Zealand plants referred to the Northern Hemisphere *P. luteoalbum* (L.) Hilliard et B.L.Burt remain problematic. New Zealand plants do not look like the type of that species and there is range of variation evident. There have been attempts to segregate that variation into informal tag name 'units', such as *P. "coast"*, *P. "Kaitorete"*, *P. "mountain"*, and *P. "Zoo"*. However, some of the characters used to recognise these units have proved unstable in cultivation. Further critical study is needed not only to examine the variation present in New Zealand but also the status of *Gnaphalium luteoalbum* var. *incanum* A.Rich.—proposed for New Zealand plants by Richard (1832), and accepted by Allan (1961) but dismissed by Webb et al. (1988) as part of the variation within their broad worldwide concept of *P. luteoalbum*. Notably neither Allan (1961) or Webb et al. (1988) elaborated on their decisions with any critical taxonomic evidence; Allan (1961) says nothing whilst Webb et al. (1988) offered an opinion. Any taxonomic study of New Zealand plants would also need to consider those Australian and Pacific plants currently referred to *Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum*.

Pseudognaphalium ephemerum de Lange was proposed as a new name (nomen novum) for *Gnaphalium luteoalbum* var. *compactum* Kirk (de Lange et al. 2010). That species has not been widely accepted either and requires further critical study. The problem being that the assumption by field botanists that any small, flat *Pseudognaphalium* growing in Eastern South Island ephemeral wetlands (on lake margins and tarns growing on mud left as waters recede during summer) is this species, is not always valid as other races of *Pseudognaphalium* can adopt that morphology and will grow in these habitats as well—their recognition requires cultivation. In this regard *P. ephemerum* s.s is best recognised as being a small plant with strict annual habits that is very difficult (if not impossible) to cultivate. Whatever its status, for now many field botanists and ecologists accept it as a valid species.

Therefore, pending further taxonomic investigation and with the exception of *Pseudognaphalium ephemerum*, a broad concept of *P. luteoalbum* is used here.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J. 2010: *Threatened plants of New Zealand*. Christchurch, Canterbury University Press. 450 p
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- Richard, A. 1832: Essai d'une Flore de la Nouvelle Zélande. In: *Botanique. Essai d'une Flore de la Nouvelle Zélande*[1]-376
- Tzvelev, N. N. 1993: Notes on some Caucasian Asteraceae and Araceae. *Byulleten' Moskovskogo Obshchestva Ispytatelei Prirody, Otdel Biologicheskii* 98(6): 99-108
- Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Christchurch, Botany Division DSIR

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pseudognaphalium-luteoalbum/>