

Raoulia beauverdii

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Raoulia beauverdii Cockayne

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

RAOBEA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 56

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP
2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (easterly from Canterbury to Southland).

HABITAT

Coastal to montane (0–500 m a.s.l.) on sand dunes and inland in short tussock grassland, often on limestone talus or loess derived from calcareous rocks, and on or near limestone and schist rock outcrops.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Silvery-grey (battleship grey) prostrate, creeping, perennial herb forming diffuse to dense mats up to 1 m diameter. **Stems** up to 0.5 mm diameter, filiform, dark brown, wiry and pliant, emitting numerous fine, long, filiform roots at leaf nodes. **Branches** 5–20 (or more) mm long, weakly ascending to spreading, more or less silky-pilose hairy. **Leaves** openly to closely imbricating on stems and branches, rarely distant (usually on rapidly growing stems), 2–5 × 0.2–1 mm, uniformly silvery-grey to battle-ship grey, linear to linear-spathulate or spathulate, apex obtuse to rounded, both surfaces covered in fine, more or less appressed greyish indumentum, margins involute. **Capitula** 4–6 mm diameter, florets 10–15, pale cream, more or less funnellform; involucre bracts 3–4-seriate, outer shorter than inner, broadly-ovate, acuminate, inner linear-oblong, scarious, apices obtuse, often dark brown tipped. **Cypsela** 0.8–0.9 mm long, ribs indistinct with basal rim not thickened, buff brown to grey brown, obovate to obovate-elliptic. **Pappus** 3–3.2 mm long, caducous, very finely scabrid.



Awahokomoa Bluffs, St Mary. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.



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SIMILAR TAXA

Previously included by Allan (1961, p. 705) within *Raoulia apicinigra* Kirk (as *R. hookeri* var. *apice-nigra* (Kirk) Allan), *R. beauverdii* differs by its more open rather than compact turf forming growth habit and darker uniformly dark metallic silver (battleship grey) rather than white foliage and also cytologically. *Raoulia apicinigra* has $2n = 28$ chromosomes, *R. beauverdii* $2n = 56$.

FLOWERING

October–December

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream

FRUITING

November–February

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from rooted pieces and fresh seed. Prefers a free-draining, sunny situation. In humid climates it does not grow well.

THREATS

A naturally uncommon, sporadically occurring species. The dryland habitats it occupies are under increasing pressure from habitat loss, land development, and invasive weeds.

ETYMOLOGY

raoulia: Named after Étienne Fiacre Louis Raoul (23 July 1815–30 March 1852) who was a French naval surgeon and naturalist. He published a book *Choix de plantes de la Nouvelle-Zélande* (“Selected plants of New Zealand”) in 1846. The genus was named after him by Joseph Hooker.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

NOTES ON TAXONOMY

This distinctive species has been included within *R. monroi* Hook.f. or *R. apicinigra* Kirk in most past flora treatments.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet and description by P.J. de Lange (20 April 2012). Description based on herbarium specimens lodged at AK from Awahokomo and Omaui.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. *Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones*. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/raoulia-beauverdii/>