

Raoulia eximia

COMMON NAME

vegetable sheep

SYNONYMS

Haastia greenii Hook.f.; *Psychrophyton eximium* Beauverd

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Raoulia eximia Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

RAOEXI

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island - mostly east of the main divide from Marlborough to northern Southland

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine. In rocky ground such as scree and talus slopes, cliff faces and boulder falls and in fellfield

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stock very stout, woody; branches woody below, very densely compacted, forming rounded cushions up to 1 m or more diameter, up to 1 m tall. Leaves densely imbricate, 3.0-4.0 × up to 1.5 mm, 1-nerved, obovate- to oblong-spathulate to narrow-oblong, rounded at apex; apical portion on both surfaces with dense brush of long straight hairs exceeding and obscuring outline of lamina; ventral surface glabrous below; dorsal surface clad in ascending straight hairs. Capitula c.3 mm diameter. Inner series of involucral bracts linear, 3-4 mm long, scarious on margins, pilose in upper portion, tips not white, not radiating. Florets 10-15 or more. Achenes hardly 1 mm long, clad in long silky hairs; pappus-hairs rigid

FLOWERING

November - January



Foggy peak, Torlesse range. January.
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence:
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Foggy peak, Torlesse range. January.
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence:
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FRUITING

January - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - should not be removed from the wild

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.

eximia: Strikingly unusual

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

MORE INFORMATION

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