

Raoulia mammillaris

COMMON NAME

vegetable sheep

SYNONYMS

Psychrophyton mammillare Beauverd

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Raoulia mammillaris Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

RAOMAM

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 and centred on Canterbury

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine. On rocks, talus and scree and sparsely vegetated fellfield.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stock stout, woody; branches densely compacted, woody at base, forming hard rounded cushions up to 500 mm diameter. Leaves densely imbricate, c. 3-4 × 1 mm, obovate-spathulate, rounded at apex; basal portion glabrous on ventral surface, clad in floccose hairs on dorsal surface below apex; apical portion clad on both surfaces in straight ascending hairs but little exceeding lamina-apex. Capitula up to 6.5 mm diameter, inner series of involucre bracts c.4 mm long, narrow-oblong, margins scarious; tips obtuse, white, radiating. Florets 10-12. Achenes up to 1.25 mm long, clad in long silky hairs; pappus-hairs c.3 mm long, rigid

FLOWERING

November - January



Foggy Peak, Torlesse range, January.
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Craigieburn Skifield, Canterbury. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FRUITING

December - 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.

mammillaris: Teat bearing

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-mammillaris/>