

Schizacme novae-zelandiae

SYNONYMS

Mitrasacme novae-zelandiae Hook.f. var. novae-zelandiae

FAMILY

Loganiaceae

AUTHORITY

Schizacme novae-zelandiae (Hook.f.) K.L.Gibbons (2014)

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

MITNOV

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Cushion-forming, dark green to green plant of tussock grasslands, cushion bogs and heaths. Cushions 100 × 30 mm, leaves tightly overlapping, 2.8–4.5 × 0.5–0.9 mm, linear-oblong, concavo-convex with pale glass-like margins and prominent, pale hair like tips. Flowers white, bell-shaped.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North West Nelson to Fiordland. Stewart Island plants and some specimens from Fiordland whose leaves have ciliate bases may represent another, as yet undescribed entity.

HABITAT

Montane to alpine in wet tussock (*Chionochloa*) grassland, cushion bogs (often admixed with *Donatia novae-zelandiae*) and heath land.

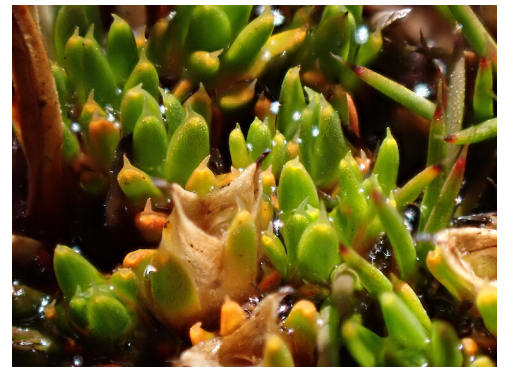
WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).



Arthur's Pass National Park. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 21/01/2024, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial dark green, bright green to almost glaucous plants forming cushions up to 100 × 30 mm. Leaves sessile, tightly imbricate, glabrous with indistinct midrib; lamina 2.8–4.5 × 0.5–0.9 mm, linear-oblong, concavo-convex; margins minutely hyaline in distal half or for most their length; apex with apiculum 0.1–0.5 mm long. Bracts similar to leaves, glabrous; lamina 2.4–3.0 × 0.5–0.7 mm, linear to oblong; apiculum 0.2–0.3 mm long, hyaline. Flowers, white, pedicellate. Pedicels < 0.1 mm, glabrous. Calyx tube 0.4–0.6 mm long; lobes 1.1–2.1 × 0.4–1.0 mm, narrowly deltoid to deltoid unequal (with one pair slightly larger) or ± equal; apiculum 0.1–0.2 mm, glabrous, hyaline. Corolla campanulate; tube 1.7–3.0 mm long; lobes glabrous 0.6–1.0 × 0.8–1.2 mm, obtuse, ± acuminate. Styles 0.4–0.5 mm long. Capsule 2.2–3.4 × 1.9–2.5 mm; locules ± globular; wings distal, boat-shaped. Seed 0.6–0.7 × 0.4–0.5 mm, oblong-elliptic, buff, orange-brown to nut brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from *S. montana* var. *helmsii* by the sessile rather than weakly petiolate, rigid leaves whose margins have a distinctly (rather than indistinct) hyaline margin and hyaline apiculus. Both varieties are sympatric in the Paparoa ranges, North Westland.

FLOWERING

October - February

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

January - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown.

ETYMOLOGY

novae-zelandiae: Of New Zealand

TAXONOMIC NOTES

A full revision of the New Zealand *Mitrasacme* is required. When Dunlop (1996) erected the Australasian genus *Schizacme* they indicated that the New Zealand taxa *Mitrasacme montana* var. *helmsii* and *M. novae-zelandiae* var. *novae-zelandiae* were congeneric with Australian species of *Schizacme* but did not provide a formal treatment of them (Webb & Simpson 2001). Aside from the generic position, morphological evidence suggests that *M. montana* var. *helmsii* needs formal elevation to species rank, and further some Fiordland and Stewart Island populations currently attributed to *M. novae-zelandiae* var. *novae-zelandiae* may warrant segregation and formal taxonomic recognition.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (12 November 2014). Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Webb & Simpson (2001), supplemented with observations made from dried material.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Dunlop, C.R. 1996: *Schizacme*. Pp. 58-59, 314 in Orchard, A.E. (ed.) Flora of Australia. Vol 28: Gentianales. Melbourne, CSIRO publishing and Australian Biological Resources Study.
- Webb, C.J. & Simpson, M.J.A. 2001: *Seeds of New Zealand Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons*. Christchurch, Manuka Press.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/schizacme-novae-zelandiae/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/schizacme-novae-zelandiae/>