

Traversia baccharoides

COMMON NAME

Traversia

SYNONYMS

Senecio germinatus Kirk

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Traversia baccharoides Hook f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

TRABAC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Declining

2009 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: EF

2004 | Sparse

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Bushy spreading shrub to around 1m tall with flaky bark and grooved twigs bearing sticky thick leathery toothed leaves inhabiting upland areas of the northern South Island. Leaves 50–80mm long, vein network sunken into upper leaf surface. Flowers white, small, with some projecting filaments. Seeds small, fluffy.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Northern South Island (Nelson, Marlborough to northern Canterbury)

HABITAT

Montane forest to subalpine shrublands (700 - 1400 m a.s.l.). Often found at forest margins on cliff faces, on steep rubble-strewn slopes, amongst boulders or at the bottom of talus slopes in and amongst other low shrubs.



Cob Valley (January). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Cobb Valley. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small densely to openly branched often somewhat straggly, viscid sticky, resinous, dark green to yellow green shrub up to 1 x 1 m. Trunk and older branches clad in loose, papery pinkish-grey to pale brown bark; bark peeling or flaking readily. Branchlets slender, brittle, clad in persistent leaf base remnants, deeply and longitudinally grooved; young branchlets distinctly resinous and sticky. Emergent leaves and leaf buds viscid sticky. Leaves 50-80 x 15-30 mm, dark glossy green, obovate to rhomboid, obtuse to subacute, cuneately narrowed to decurrent base, coarsely serrated in upper expanded third, subcoriaceous to coriaceous, venation conspicuous. Subfloral leaves smaller otherwise similar to branchlet leaves, though more finely serrate, grading into bracts subtending inflorescences. Inflorescence a lax corymb of 1-12 capitula. Pedicels 2-5 mm long, slender, usually in pairs, bracteolate, extremely viscid. Involucre of 6-8, linear-oblong, obtuse, rigid and coriaceous, viscid involucre bracts up to 6 mm long, margins membranous. Capitula 8 x 10 mm, receptacle alveolate; florets 12-15, perfect, pale pink or white, narrow-tubular to cylindrical, campanulate above, with 5 linear lobes up to 2.5 mm long, these spreading to recurved, > pappus hairs; stamens prominent and exerted. Cypsela 2.8-4 mm long, buff to grey nut-brown, narrowly elliptic, with slight waist below pappus at apex, ribs 9-10, broad and flat; resin ducts prominent, rib-like, rounded, translucent, golden. Pappus unequally biseriate, 3.5-5 mm long, minutely barbellate.

SIMILAR TAXA

A well marked plant. The glossy dark green to yellow green, extremely viscid sticky somewhat resinous leaves, often straggly shrub habit, deeply grooved branchlets bearing numerous persistent leaf bases, fuchsia-like readily flaking bark and off-pink to white subcorymbosely arranged capitula with prominently exerted stamens readily distinguish this species from other indigenous shrub daisies.

FLOWERING

December - March

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

February - June

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from cuttings but rather slow growing. Dislikes humidity

THREATS

A naturally uncommon sporadically occurring species

ETYMOLOGY

traversia: Named after William Thomas Locke Travers (1819–1903) who was an Irish lawyer, magistrate, politician, explorer, naturalist, photographer. He lived in New Zealand from 1849 onwards and became a fellow of the Linnean Society. Sir Joseph Hooker named the genus after him.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/traversia-baccharoides/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/traversia-baccharoides/>