

Vittadinia australis

COMMON NAME

white fuzzweed

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Vittadinia australis A.Rich.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

VITAUS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18, 36

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Data Deficient

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands. Mainly in the drier eastern regions from Great Barrier Island south to Southland.

HABITAT

In stony eroding tussock grassland, dry hill slopes, rock outcrops (including limestone, greywacke), riverbeds and stony places. Lowland through low-alpine zone to 1,500m.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Fine, spreading, prostrate to ascending, perennial herb, up to 30cm tall with stout root. Stems usually sparsely to densely clothed in long, white, erect hairs and glandular hairs, becoming hairless and woody towards the base. Leaves dull green, hairy, often 3- to 5-lobed, up to 1.5cm long. Flower heads small daisies, 1-1.5cm across, with white petals and yellow centres, occurring singly at branch tips. Seed heads spherical and fluffy.



Vittadinia australis. Photographer: Jan Clayton-Greene, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Vittadinia australis. Photographer: Jan Clayton-Greene, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Introduced weedy *Vittadinia gracilis* and *Vi. cuneata*. *V. australis* has spreading white stem hairs and white flowers. The introduced species have purple flowers and tightly pressed stem hairs.

FLOWERING

October to June

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

November to August

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from cuttings and fresh seed but can be hard to maintain in cultivation.

THREATS

Vittadinia australis has declined from large parts of its North Island range, and is now possibly extinct north of the Bay of Plenty. It has also declined from large parts of the south Wellington coast. In the South Island there is also some evidence of decline. The exact cause(s) of this observed decline is unclear but the spread of weeds, including introduced *Vittadinia* spp., and browsing animals are likely factors.

ETYMOLOGY

vittadinia: Man's name

australis: Southern

ATTRIBUTION

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/vittadinia-australis/>