



Argyrotegium nitidulum

Common Name(s):

None known

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Indigenous. South Island, Marlborough and near Arthurs Pass.
Present in Australia

Habitat:

Alpine, favouring open stony ground within tussock grassland, herbfield. Also on scree.

Features:

Stoloniferous perennial with much-branched, densely packed stems terminating in leafy rosettes and usually forming compact cushion or ball-like mats, 20-40 mm tall. Leaves mostly in basal rosettes, imbricating, initially erect then reflexing with age, basally scarious to almost glabrous though usually with a few floccose hairs near junction with stem, upper portion clad in appressed, sericeous, glossy brown tomentum; basal leaves slightly narrowed to broad sheathing petiole, densely sericeous on both surfaces including mid-vein but not petiole, keeled toward apex, lamina narrow-oblong to spatulate, obtuse, 5-12 × 2-4 mm; cauline leaves 1-2, narrow. Capitula solitary, subsessile or sessile c.5-8 mm diameter; subtending leaves < capitula; scape terminal, simple, erect, amongst leaves at flowering, elongating only to just above leaves at fruiting. Involucral bracts scarious, narrowly elliptic-oblong, subacute, 6.9-8.0 mm long; stereome yellow-green; lamina very pale brown, sometimes darker at base; gap and margins clear to mid-brown. Achenes 1.0-1.2 mm long, with scattered appressed hairs, becoming glabrous. Pappus of c.30-36 filiform hairs, c.6.0-6.2 mm. long.

Flowering:

November - January

Fruiting:

December - February

Threats:

While not actively threatened this is a very uncommon plant in New Zealand. To ensure its long term security it is important that all populations are routinely monitored. Some populations are especially vulnerable to plant collectors and to a lesser extent the spread of weeds.

References and further reading:

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

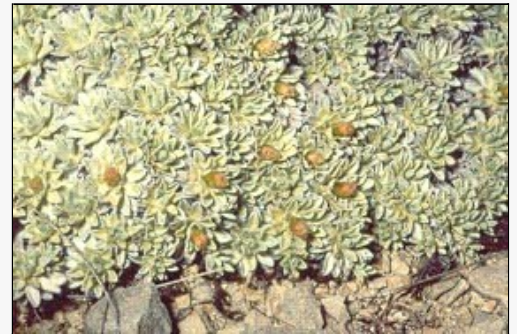
For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=486



Caption: Island Saddle (January)

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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