



Brachyscome pinnata

Common Name(s):

Lees Valley Daisy

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Critical

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, Canterbury only. Allan (1961) (as *B. sinclairii* var. *pinnata* (Hook.f.) Allan) considered this plant to be widespread throughout the eastern South Island and Stewart Island. However, herbarium evidence suggests it has always been a Canterbury endemic.

Habitat:

Exact habitat preferences are uncertain. This species has been recently gathered from only one location. Here it grows amongst short grasses (mainly *Rytidosperma* spp.), small, annual weeds and mosses or at the base of kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides* (A.Rich.) Joy Thomps.) shrubs on stony alluvium shrubland. Old herbarium specimens provide few if any useful habitat details.

Features*:

Rosette forming, stoloniferous herb of open sites within short tussock grassland, producing small, diffuse, circular patches. Leaves succulent fleshy, coriaceous, 15-80 x 5-8 mm, dark green, red-green or bronze-green, narrowly linear-oblong to lanceolate, increasing in width toward apex, pinnatifid or deeply lobed, lobes 8-10 (or more), orbicular, close-set (not or scarcely overlapping) entire. Flowers on solitary stalks 1-4 (or more) per rosette; 50-180 mm long, slender, wiry, dark brown to brown-black, somewhat glandular pubescent toward capitula. Capitula 15-25 mm diameter. Phyllaries narrow-oblong to lanceolate, 4-8 mm long, usually glabrous, sometimes minutely glandular pubescent; margins finely ciliolate to erose. Ray-florets white, 8-12 mm long. Disc-florets yellow. Achenes not seen.

Flowering:

October - May

Fruiting:

Unknown - the only known wild population does not appear to set viable seed

Threats:

Seriously at risk from extinction and only known from a single site with 4 patches, possibly representing separate clones. Viable seed has not been produced by any of these plants. The plants might be so closely related that they will be unable to self or cross with each other. The species' habitat is vulnerable to seasonal drought, fire (the only known habitat was completely burned over several years ago), and weed invasion. The release of rabbit calicivirus near the wild *B. pinnata* population and subsequent loss of rabbits has led to a change in vegetation from the open, stunted grassland the species seems to need to one dominated by tall grasses. Now seriously threatened by grass competition such that the plants need to be regularly weeded.

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 October 2003. Description from de Lange et al. (2010).

References and further reading:

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Christchurch, Canterbury University Press. 471pp.

Johnson, A. T., Smith, H. A. (1972). Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning. Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=5



Caption: Flowers of *Brachyscome pinnata*

Photographer: Philip Smith



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