



Raoulia rubra

Common Name(s):

vegetable sheep

Current Threat Status (2012):

Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North (Taranaki Ranges) and South Island (North-west Nelson - Haupiri Range, Mt Arthur, North Westland - Paparoa Range)

Habitat:

Subalpine to alpine - on rocky slopes, stable talus, cliff faces and rock ledges.

Features*:

Stock hard, woody; branches woody at base, densely compacted, forming cushions up to 250 mm diameter and 150 mm tall. Leaves 2.0-4.0 × 1.0-1.5 mm, obovate-spathulate, rounded to truncate at tips. Apical portion of leaf clad on both surfaces in long straight hairs exceeding lamina; lower portion glabrous on both surfaces, 1-nerved. Capitula c.3 mm diameter. Inner series of involucre bracts linear, obtuse, scarious on margins, tip white, short, radiating. Florets 10-15; corolla crimson to purplish. Achenes c.2.5 mm long, clad in long silky hairs; pappus-hairs c.2.5 mm long, rigid.

Flowering:

November - January

Fruiting:

January - April

Threats:

Not Threatened - A narrow range endemic common within its known geographic range

***Attribution:**

Description adapted from Allan (1961).

References and further reading:

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I, Government Printer, Wellington.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=669



Caption: Robert Ridge, Nelson (December)

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth