



Wilsonia backhousei

Common Name(s):

narrow-leaved wilsonia

Current Threat Status (2012):

Non Resident Native - Coloniser

Distribution:

Indigenous. In New Zealand known only from the Waimea Estuary, Nelson where it was first discovered in 1993. Common in Australia where it is known from Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.

Habitat:

A species of usually silty to muddy ground within estuaries, usually found growing just above the mean high tide mark in places which would be subjected to frequent salt-water immersion during storms or Spring/King tides.

Features*:

Small procumbent subshrub forming dense patches up to 1 x 1 m. branches procumbent up to 150 mm tall, more or less glabrous. Leaves more or less succulent, sessile, 5-20 x 10-3 mm, glaucous to dark green, linear-lanceolate to linear-obovate, apex acute, base attenuate, glabrous. Flowers solitary; pedicels 0-1.5 mm long, calyx 5-7 mm long, tubular, teeth 5, triangular, 1/4 to 1/3 the length of tube, outer surface glabrous, inner pilose hairy; corolla 10 mm long, tubular white; 5-lobed, lobes 2-4 mm long, linear-ovate to linear-elliptic, acute; stamens 5, exserted, filaments attached 1-1.5 mm below throat; ovary 1-2-locular, style exserted, stigmas ovoid. Capsule c.3 mm long, obovoid, shorter than calyx, indehiscent (capsules rarely seen in New Zealand material). Seeds 1-2.

Flowering:

October -
February

Fruiting:

December - April (rarely produced
in New Zealand)

Threats:

Not Threatened. Apparently a recent arrival (at least there are no records of it prior to 1993) which has successfully colonised the Waimea Estuary. It should probably no longer be regarded as a vagrant, despite the fact it rarely sets seed. For it spreads readily by asexual means.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2006. Description by P.J. de Lange.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=722



Caption: Herbarium specimen AK 224608.

Photographer: Peter de Lange



Caption: Herbarium specimen AK 224608 detail.

Photographer: Peter de Lange