



## *Vittadinia australis*

### **Common Name(s):**

white fuzzweed

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

Not Threatened

### **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.

### **Features:**

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.

### **Flowering:**

October to June

### **Fruiting:**

November to August

### **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.

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=777](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=777)



**Caption:** Alexandra

**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Caption:** Fruiting. Alexandra

**Photographer:** John Barkla