



Phylloglossum drummondii

Common Name(s):

None known

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Critical

Distribution:

Indigenous. Known from the North and South Islands. In the South Island it is only known from very old gatherings made from Marlborough and Banks Peninsula. It is now regarded as extinct at both locations. In the North Island it was once found from Te Pahi south to the northern Waikato. It is now only known from scattered sites between the Surville Cliffs and Dargaville. Common in Australia.

Habitat:

Coastal to lowland sites. Most often found on recently burned ground, often in gumland scrub, or overlying other similarly low, open vegetation such as that developed on clay pans and acidic soils. Also found on ultramafic soils, and heavily weathered and/or podzolised sandstones.

Features*:

Bright yellow to yellow-green, fleshy, tufted, seasonal plant arising from a small white to pale pink ovoid to ellipsoid tuber. Plants 15–50 mm tall. Tuber 3–4 mm long, ovoid, white usually subtended by a smaller developing daughter tuber. Stem 6–9 mm, erect, mostly subterranean. Roots 1–2, fleshy, white. Leaves tufted and clustered in a rosette, fleshy, erect or spreading, 4.0–30.0 × 0.5–1.2 mm, linear, acute, terete. The seasonally produced sterile blades first appear in July and may persist until late November. Fertile stem solitary; peduncle 10–50 mm tall, white, fleshy; strobilus erect, 4–10 mm; sporophylls 2–3 × 1–2 mm, ovate-triangular, acute to attenuate. Sporangium attached to sporophyll base, 1.0–1.5 × 1.0–1.5 mm, reniform, at first pale yellow maturing cream.

Flowering:

The sterile blades appear in July and may persist until November (though they have usually dried off by late October)

Fruiting:

Fertile cones are produced one or two per tuft from about August to October.

Threats:

This species has declined markedly as a consequence of the conversion of its preferred gumland scrub habitat to farmland, or through the loss of these habitats as a consequence of natural succession. Plants have also been lost through over collection in some smaller, vulnerable populations.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2009). Description based on Chinnock (1998).

References and further reading:

Bartlett, B. 1944. *Eucamptodon* and *Phylloglossum drummondii*. Auckland Botanical Society Journal, 1: 4-5

Braggins, J. 1974. *Phylloglossum* miniature denizen of the North. Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin, 38: 28-34

Chinnock, R.J. 1998: Lycopodiaceae. Pp. 66–85. Flora of Australia 48: Ferns, Gymnosperms and Allied Groups. Melbourne: ABRS/CSIRO Australia.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=84



Caption: *Phylloglossum drummondii*

Photographer: Kevin Matthews



Caption: Lake Ohia. Sep 2008.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe