

Olearia adenocarpa

SMALL-LEAVED TREE DAISY

Olearia adenocarpa is one of eight rare *Olearia* species included in the Small-leaved Tree Daisy National Recovery Plan. A separate fact sheet is available for each species. The aim of the factsheets is to encourage public awareness of these distinctive New Zealand species and to find compatible ways of managing the places where they exist. A first step towards this is to help people recognise the plants and take an interest in their welfare.

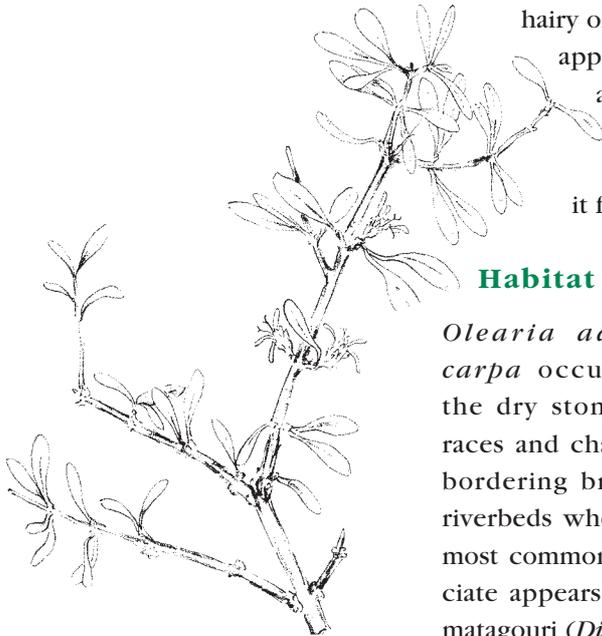
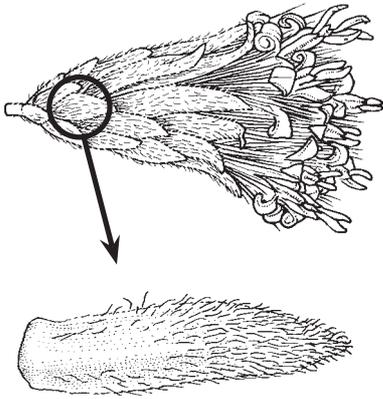
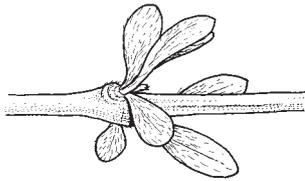
Description

Olearia adenocarpa is a newly recognised species described and named in 2004. It had previously been mis-identified as *Olearia odorata* or *Olearia virgata*. It is a deciduous shrub up to 1.2 m high, the main branches of which are short-lived (<12 years). It regularly produces new branches from at and below ground level and has opposite leaves in clusters. Leaves are egg shaped 3-14mm long x 2-4 mm wide, and are hairy on the underside. Flowers appear in clusters in January and February. The dry seeds are covered with hairs which distinguish it from other species.

generally occur as scattered individuals and are not abundant at any one site because its former communities and habitats are generally degraded to unimproved dry grassland. Only one site is fenced and managed for conservation purposes.

Habitat

Olearia adenocarpa occurs on the dry stony terraces and channels bordering braided riverbeds where its most common associate appears to be matagouri (*Discaria toumatou*). Plants



Sketches not to scale



Similar plants

Olearia odorata and *Olearia virgata*.

Distribution

Olearia adenocarpa is endemic to the South Island Canterbury Plains, known only from near Christchurch along the Waimakariri and Rakaia rivers.

Population Size

The total number of known plants of *Olearia adenocarpa* is less than 650 individuals. It is known from only two populations bordering the Waimakariri River and the Rakaia River. Both populations are composed of heavily browsed, depleted, senescent, prostrate plants that are failing to prosper or reproduce. Only unbrowsed plants are believed to be capable of reproduction.

National Threat Status and Threats

Nationally Critical. Threats include habitat loss, fragmentation of habitat, lack of legal protection, animal browsing and lack of seedling recruitment.

How Can I help?

Learn to recognise the plant.

Tell staff at the Department of Conservation if you discover populations of the plant or suspect you may have.

Explore ways to protect populations of the plant through covenanting, fencing, weed control and supplementary planting

Use locally sourced plants in gardens, shelterbelts and revegetation projects.

Further Information

For more Information visit the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network web site: www.nzpcn.org.nz

DOC Contacts

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www.doc.govt.nz

Reference

Heenan P. B., Molloy B.P.J., 2004. Taxonomy, ecology and conservation of *Olearia adenocarpa* (Asteraceae), a new species from braided riverbeds in Canterbury, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany*, 2004, Vol. 42:21-36

Photos by Geoff Rogers, Peter Heenan and K. McCombs. Sketches by Lloyd Esler and Rebecca Wagstaff.

