

# *Olearia fimbriata*

## SMALL-LEAVED TREE DAISY

*Olearia fimbriata* 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 fimbriata* was described and named in 1998 having previously been known as *Olearia* "Pomahaka" after the catchment in northern Southland where it was first recognised as a distinct species. It is an evergreen shrub or tree to 8 m tall, with furrowed greyish bark on the trunk and older branches. Young branches and branchlets are pale grey or brown, oval to flattened in cross-section, and have smooth bark. Leaves are arranged in opposite pairs that are green-grey, thin, hairy below, and dull above; leaf shape is elliptic to tear-drop and 10-17mm long x 4-6mm wide. Clusters of small, cream-coloured flowers appear in January or February.

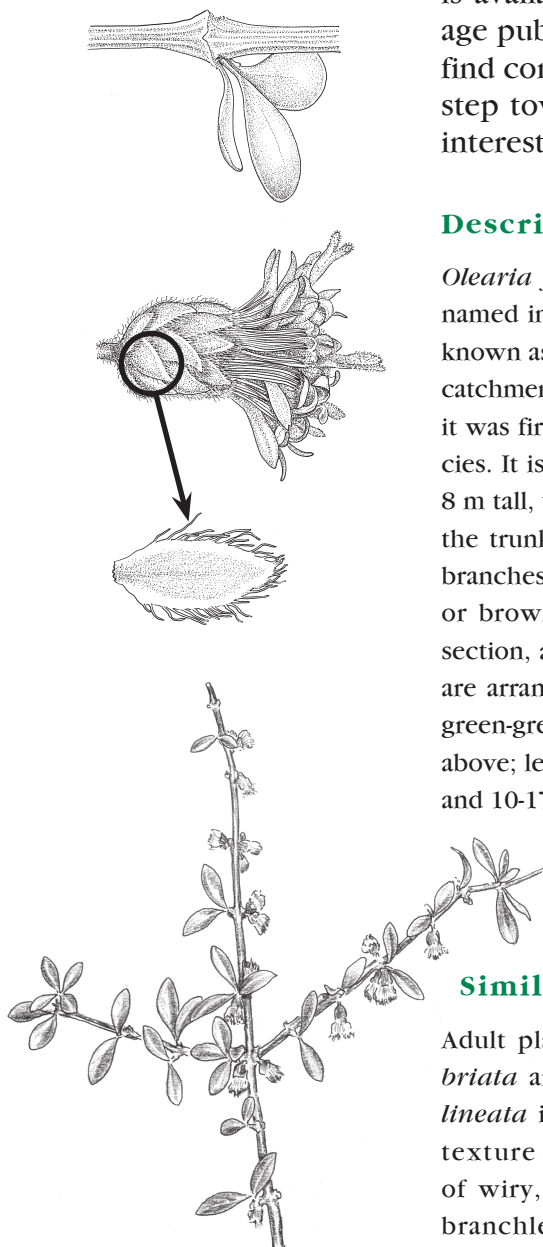
### Similar Plants

Adult plants of *Olearia fimbriata* are similar to *Olearia lineata* in overall profile and texture with outer masses of wiry, wispy, pendulous branchlets. Also similar to *Olearia odorata* and *Olearia virgata*.

### Habitat

*Olearia fimbriata* occurs within dry hill country areas of the eastern South Island. Naturally it occupied river gorges, rock outcrops and talus slopes that provide open areas within extensive beech forest. It may have also occupied slip sites, riparian habitat and other open areas.

Today it is commonly a component of matagou-



Sketches not to scale



ri-dominated grey scrub, but locally may occur as a monoculture within pastured hillslopes. *Olearia fimbriata* supports at least 16 moth species, of which 11 are tree daisy specialists.

### Distribution

*Olearia fimbriata* is restricted to eastern South Island, from Banks Peninsula, Mount Cook National Park, through South Canterbury, Otago to northern Southland. *Olearia fimbriata* previously occurred on Otago Peninsula but is now locally extinct there. Several smaller populations are scattered between Clinton (South Otago) and Banks Peninsula. The largest populations are found in the Upper Pomahaka and Waikaia valleys. Many populations, including some of the largest, are found on pastoral leases.

### Population Size

The total population size is estimated to be about 10,000 plants with 27 sites currently known. At one site, McKay Creek, Pomahaka River, over 5000 adult plants and 500 seedlings are known. The largest seven sites have a total of 8600 plants ranging from 100-5000 plants. Populations are composed mostly of adults, with saplings at some sites, but usually with very few juveniles.



### National Threat Status and Threats

Serious Decline. Threats include habitat loss, modification and fragmentation, fire and land development, lack of physical and legally protected sites, animal browsing and weed invasion.

### 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 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

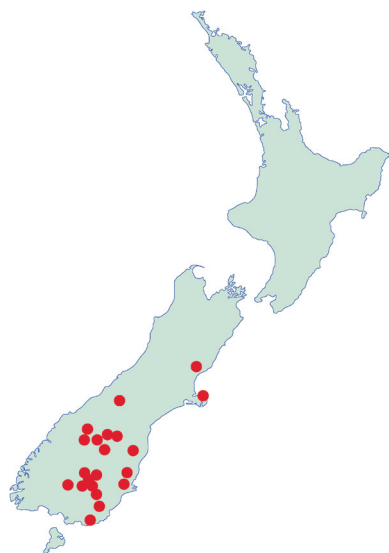
For more information visit the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network website: [www.nzpcn.org.nz](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz)

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Photos by Geoff Rogers and John Barkla. Sketches by Lloyd Esler and Rebecca Wagstaff.