

NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee

Conservation Assessment of *Olearia* sp. Henry River (J.B.Williams 21/Oct/1966)

CL Gross 16/9/2021

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***Olearia* sp. Henry River (J.B.Williams 21/Oct/1966)**

Distribution: Endemic to NSW

Current EPBC Act Status: Not listed

Current NSW BC Act Status: Not listed

Proposed listing on NSW BC Act and EPBC Act: Data Deficient

Conservation Advice: ***Olearia* sp. Henry River (J.B.Williams 21/Oct/1966)**

Summary of Conservation Assessment

Olearia sp. Henry River (J.B.Williams 21/Oct/1966) was found to be ineligible for listing under IUCN Criteria owing to a deficit in data available for the species. It is known from only one specimen collected in 1966. It has not been thoroughly described in a manuscript and has not been formally compared with other species in *Olearia*. Dr Ian Telford upon request made an initial assessment of the species and considered it might be a new species "*Olearia* sp. Henry River appears to belong to *Olearia* sens. strict. and I believe it to be an undescribed species" (I. Telford *in litt.* July 2021)

Description and Taxonomy

Olearia sp. Henry River (J.B.Williams 21/Oct/1966) has not been formally described. Specimen data on AVH (AVH 2021) notes "Shrub. Bracts scurfy-tomentose outside but appearing papery as seen from inside. Scales not present on receptacle between fls. Pappus not plumose but minutely barbellate. Leaves very aromatic." Telford notes "*Superficially the specimen resembles smaller-leaved specimens of Olearia alpicola and O. rosmarinifolia, but the leaves are spirally arranged not opposite.*" (I. Telford *in litt.* July 2021)

Distribution and Abundance

Using the map from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS, Horton 1996) the location at which *Olearia* sp. Henry River (J.B.Williams 21/Oct/1966) was collected is on the traditional lands of the Gumbaynggirr First Nation peoples.

Olearia sp. Henry River (J.B.Williams 21/Oct/1966) is not known to the Director of the NE herbarium or the Curator (I. Telford. *in litt.* July 2021) and local experts have no

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data for it (J. T. Hunter *in litt.* Jul. 2021). Field surveys are required to advance our understanding of the species. A taxonomist familiar with *Olearia* should be asked to look at the species to determine if the Williams collection warrants a taxonomic study.

The single specimen has “Henry River, near Mount Slow, south east of Glen Innes.”

Ecology

Data deficient. The only specimen has the following: “Euc. campanulata forest on sandy soil over granite.” (AVH 2021).

Fire Ecology

Data deficient.

Threats

Data Deficient

Assessment against IUCN Red List criteria

For this assessment it is considered that the survey of *Olearia* sp. Henry River (J.B.Williams 21/Oct/1966) has not been inadequate and there is insufficient scientific evidence to support a listing outcome.

Information and Research priorities

Field work is required to determine if the population is extant and to collect site-based information on demography, threats and fire history. Collections should be lodged at NSW herbarium and MEL for a determination of whether the suspected new species status should be upheld.

Literature cited

Horton DR (1996) The AIATSIS Map of Indigenous Australia. Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, accessed from <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/articles/aiatsis-map-indigenous-australia>

Expert Communications

Professor Jeremy Bruhl, Professor Emeritus, University of New England – not known to him, phone conversation 06 July 2021

Dr John T. Hunter, Research Fellow, University of New England – not known to him, email communication 06 July 2021

Dr Ian Telford, Honorary Curator, NE Herbarium, UNE, not known to him, email communication 08 July 2021