
Rhizomic herb, often forming colonies comprising rosettes 4–10 cm in diameter. Rhizomes not spreading widely, reddish-brown, 2–4 mm in diameter. Leaves spatulate, 15–50 mm long, 6–15(–20) mm wide, multicellular glandular and acicular hairs usually restricted to margins and nerves; lamina surface viscid from sessile glands, commonly crenate or denticulate towards apex, base attenuate; petiole gradually expanding into lamina. Inflorescence a simple capitulum. Scape 2.5–17 cm long, glutinous, sparsely woolly with multicellular hairs; bracts 2–6, distant along scape, becoming linear, 5–10(–20) mm long towards apex of the scape. Involucre turbinate, 1.5–2.5 cm wide, 1 cm high.; bracts 25–42, 2–3 seriate, linear, acute, margins hyaline, ciliate towards apex, apices often purplish, viscid with sessile glandular hairs as well as occasional multicellular hairs. Ray florets 43–100; corolla white or purplish with limb 4–5 mm long; style 4.5 mm long; style-arms subulate, 1 mm long. Disc florets 12–40, hermaphroditic, corolla narrowly funnelform, 5-lobed, 5 mm long; style 3.5 mm long; style-arms narrowly elliptic 1 mm long. Pappus capillary, white, 5–6 mm long. Achenes 7 mm long, flattened, smooth with distinctly thickened marginal ribs. (Figure 3)

ETYMOLOGY
The specific epithet refers to the shiny, varnished leaf surface characterising this species.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT
New South Wales and Victoria; in alpine grasslands and heathlands of mainland Australia where sympatric with E. bellidioides.

CONSERVATION STATUS
Erigeron nitidus is restricted in habitat, but is widely distributed and adequately reserved.

SELECTED SPECIMENS
NEW SOUTH WALES: Munyang Mountains, alt. 4–6,000 ft, Jan. 1855, F. Mueller (MEL); Mt Kosciusko, Jan. 1874, F. Mueller (MEL).


TYPE: Middlesex Plains, Tas., Gunn 692; HOLOTYPE: K photograph seen, see note.

Rhizomic herb, often forming spreading colonies of rosettes 4–10 cm in diameter. Rhizomes not spreading widely, reddish-brown, 2–4 mm in diameter, clothed in scale-like deltoid bracts 1–2 mm long, narrowly triangular, 6–10 mm at base of rosette. Leaves spatulate, 15–80 mm long, 5–15(–20) mm wide; lamina hirsute with multicellular hairs 0.1–1 mm long with a few sessile glands, commonly crenate or denticulate towards apex, base attenuate, margins ciliate, petiole gradually expanding into lamina. Inflorescence a simple capitulum. Scape 1.5–30 cm long, at first woolly with multicellular hairs to 0.5 mm. Bracts 2–6, distant along scape, becoming linear, 5–10(–20) mm long towards apex of scape. Involucre turbinate, 1.5–2.5 cm wide, 1 cm high; bracts 25–45, 2–3 seriate, linear, acute, margins hyaline, ciliate towards apex, apices often
purplish, viscid with sessile glandular hairs as well as occasional multicellular hairs. *Ray florets* 33–100; corolla white or purplish with limb 4–5 mm long; style 4.5 mm long, style-arms subulate, 1 mm long. *Disc florets* 8–40, hermaphroditic; corolla narrowly funnelform, 5-lobed, 5 mm long; style 3.5 mm long; style-arms narrowly elliptic 1 mm long. *Pappus* capillary, white, 5–6 mm long. *Achenes* 5.5–7 mm long, flattened, smooth with distinctly thickened marginal ribs. (Fig. 1e)

**DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT**

New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania; in alpine and sub-alpine grasslands and heathlands of mainland Australia where sympatric with *Erigeron nitidus*, and extending from alpine to montane grasslands and heathlands in Tasmania.

**CONSERVATION STATUS**

*Erigeron bellidioides* is restricted in habitat, but is widely distributed and adequately reserved.

**NOTES**

The two large specimens on the left of the holotype sheet are apparently from Middlesex Plains – the remainder of the material on the sheet is from St Patricks River. The holotype may include specimens illustrated by Fitch in Flora Tasmaniae t.46 B as *E. gunni*, although the details are apparently of the holotype of *E. gunni*.

**SELECTED SPECIMENS**

**NEW SOUTH WALES:** Barrington Tops National Park, Polblue Swamp, 12 Dec. 1989, S.J. Forbes & A-L. Anderberg 2189 (MEL, SI); Mt Kosciusko, Jan. 1874, F. Mueller (MEL). Moroka Valley, Mar. 1861, F. Mueller (MEL); Bogong High Plains, headwaters of Cope Creek, 1.75 km NE Mt Cope, alt. 1690 m, 11 Dec. 1980, H. van Rees 222 (MEL); Mt Baw Baw, 1.8 km NE of Ski Village along track to Mustering Flat, 19 Feb. 1980, P.S. Short 1118 (MEL); Mt Buffalo National Park, snow plain at base of Mt McLeod, alt. 1400 m, 27 Jan. 1982, P.S. Short 1390 (MEL); Diggers Holes, Numnong Plateau, alt. 4,500 ft. 5 Jan. 1949, N.A. Wakefield 2653 (MEL).

**TASMANIA:** Iris River-Cradle Valley Road crossing, 10.5 km by road N Waldheim, 20 Jan. 1983, S.J. Forbes 1395 (CANB, HO, MEL, NSW); Diddleum Plains, St Patricks, 16 Nov. 1844, R.C. Gunn 692 (NSW);


**TYPE:** Mount Wellington, Tasmania; 31 Jan. 1840, R. Gunn 1151; **HOLOTYPE:** K photograph seen; **ISOTYPE:** NSW 275467; **POSSIBLE ISOTYPE:** MEL.

*Rhizomic herb*, often forming colonies, in rosettes 2–10 cm in diameter. *Rhizomes* not spreading widely, reddish-brown, 2–4 mm in diameter clothed in scale-like triangular or broad triangular bracts, c. 2.5 mm long, triangular to narrow-triangular c. 3 mm long at base of rosette. *Leaves* cuneiform, 10–50 mm long, 5–15 mm wide, lamina glabrous to sparsely scaberulous from tubercle-based deciduous hairs, margins with distinct border of multicellular acicular and glandular hairs 0.1–0.3 mm long, or occasionally with acicular hairs only, apex praemorse or ovate-crenate, commonly, base attenuate, petiole usually distinct and gradually expanding into lamina. *Inflorescence* a simple capitulum. *Scape* 3–15 (–25) cm long, at first woolly with multicellular acicular and glandular hairs to 0.3 mm. *Bracts* 2–6 (–7), distant along scape, becoming linear, 5–10 mm long towards apex. *Involucre* turbinate, 1.2–2.0 cm wide, 0.8–1.0 cm high. *Bracts* 25–30, 2–3 seriate, linear, acute, margins ciliate towards apex, margins hyaline, apices often purplish, sparsely setose with multicellular glandular hairs 0.2–0.3 mm long, inner bracts almost
Fig. 1. Leaf shapes and leaf margin details. Top, from left to right: a — Erigeron pappocrollus x 1.5; b — E. tasmanicus x 1.5; c — E. stellatus x 4.4; Bottom, from left to right: d. E. gunnii x 1.5; e — E bellidoides x 1.5; f — E. setosus x 3.