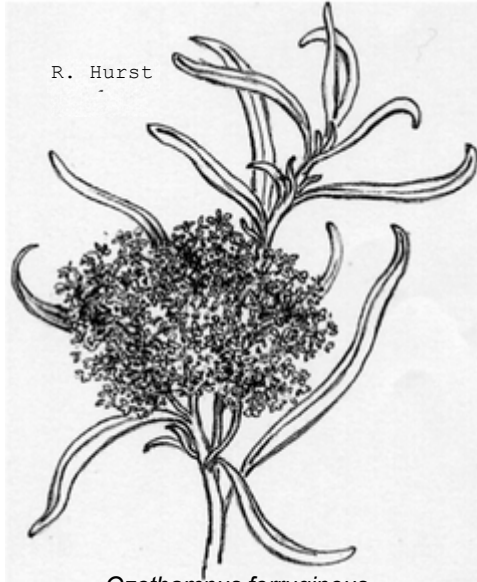


DAISY BUSHES IN OUR AREA – DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE ... Margaret MacDonald

Daisy bushes belong to the Asteraceae family, an exceedingly large and widespread family, with over 30 genera found in our district. *Ozothamnus* is one of the Asteraceae genera found in our district, with four species growing in the area.

Ozothamnus is from the Greek *ozo* – smelly & *thamnus* – shrub; probably a reference to the often pungent odour from the leaves of many species in this genus. Leaves are alternate with margins often strongly rolled under.

***Ozothamnus ferrugineus* Tree Everlasting** (*ferrugineus* – rusty brown)

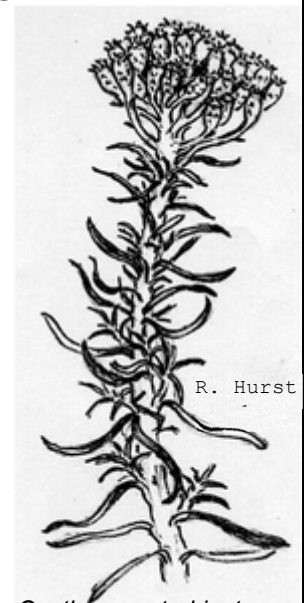


Ozothamnus ferrugineus

Tree Everlasting is very common in the district, growing in moist areas along the coast, and also inland, often along roadsides. It is an erect, bushy shrub growing to about 3.5 m, with lance-shaped to oblong leaves, 6 cm long and up to 10 mm wide. They are smooth and waxy above, and densely grey to white, or rusty-brown, and cottony underneath. Large clusters of tiny, white tubular florets (4–8 per flower head) open in summer. The tubular florets are surrounded by several rows of bracts – the innermost ones are white and spreading.

***Ozothamnus turbinatus* Coast Everlasting** (*turbinatus* – top shaped)

Coast Everlasting is a dense and spreading coastal shrub, which is widespread in the district, growing to about 1.5 m high on exposed sand-hills and cliffs. It has stiff, narrow, smooth, bright green leaves to 2 cm long and 2 mm wide. On the underside, the leaves are woolly and white. Cream to yellow tubular florets (13–31 per flower head),



Ozothamnus turbinatus

surrounded by hairy bracts, form conical clusters in late summer. The innermost bracts are white and partly open.



Ozothamnus obcordatus

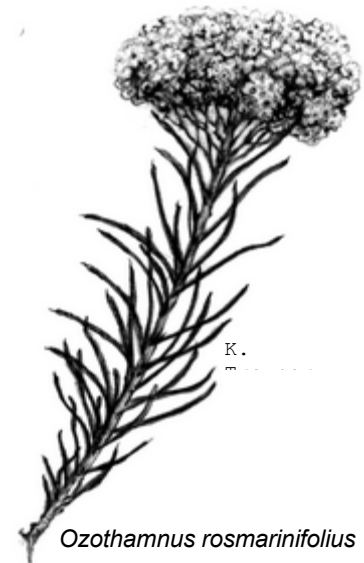
***Ozothamnus obcordatus* Grey Everlasting** (*obcordatus* = heart-shaped, but notched at tip)

This showy, slender, erect, branching shrub grows to about 1 m high. Numerous, dense, flattened clusters of bright yellow, tubular flowers (7–27 per flower-head), with hugging bracts, appear in late spring and summer. The heart-shaped leaves are shiny and dark green on the upper surface, smooth or minutely rough, but cottony and greyish-white underneath (perhaps why it is called Grey Everlasting). It is very rare in the district – known from Aireys Inlet with one shrub on the O'Donohue Heathland – most likely bird planted!

***Ozothamnus rosmarinifolius* Rosemary Everlasting** (*rosmarinifolius* = leaves like that of the genus *Rosmarinus*)

This erect shrub, with very fine, densely rough leaves (3 cm long, 1 mm wide, with a sharp point) that are greyish-cottony below, and with rolled-over margins, grows in swampy heathland to about 3 m high. Large, attractive, terminal

clusters of tiny, white, tubular florets (4–9 per flower-head) appear in summer. The florets are surrounded by white bracts that are partly open. This species is not common in the district.



Ozothamnus rosmarinifolius

Reference:

Mayfield, Enid, 2013 *Flora of the Otway Plain & Ranges 2* CSIRO PUBLISHING
MacDonald, Margaret (ed) 2009, *Flowers of Anglesea and Aireys Inlet*, ANGAIR Inc., Anglesea

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