

STYLE

Where art and science converge



SUNRISE

A pollen grain of the Asteroideae subfamily on the wingscale of *Vanessa cardui* "painted lady" (Insecta: Nymphalidae). The bright pollen grain on white scales resembles a sunrise scenery. Magnification at 60:1 with 0.4 μm step-size.

Thorben Danke



RIDERS ON THE STORM

This micrograph of a *Helianthus* (HELIANTHEAE) floret features pollen grains at 30 microns. This image is part of my Food for Thought exhibition, which explores food and climate change. Sunflowers are especially interesting due to their resilience to drought and heat. Researchers collect crop wild relative specimens and look for ways that relevant genes could help contemporary crops.

Robert Dash



VEGETABLE- SHEEP

Haastia pulvinaris Hook.f., Mt Terako, South Island, New Zealand.

The capitula are heterogamous and disciform, with numerous outer and central florets. The corollas of the outer florets are very short and narrowly tubular, sometimes with an uneven apex. The style-branches are long, far-exserted. The corollas of the central florets are tubular and 5-lobed. The style-branches are not so long. The style-branches of *Haastia pulvinaris* have a tuft of trichomes projecting beyond the apex. The pappus is composed by numerous rigid bristles, thickened at the tips. In the photo, only a few florets are open, the ones in the centre are still closed and hidden by the pappus.

Cockayne in *New Zealand Plants and Their Story* (1910) wrote that “the great hummocks of *Haastia pulvinaris* are not inaptly named “vegetable-sheep”, for at a distance a shepherd might be misled”. However, *Haastia* Hook.f. also misled us botanists: about 100 years after Cockayne wrote his book we finally established its tribal position in the Senecioneae .
(see Breitwieser and Ward <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2005.9512989>)

Rainer W. Vogt