

Aciphylla crosby-smithii

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Aciphylla crosby-smithii Petrie

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

ACICRO

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Robust elongate tufts of broad spiky leaves with white flowers in a ball on a long fleshy stalk in southern Fiordland

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island; southern Fiordland (possibly also in western Otago and elsewhere in Fiordland)

HABITAT

Exposed rocky slopes and short snow tussock herbfield. 1400-1600 m a.s.l.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Herb forming stout tufts to 40 cm tall in flower. Rosettes several, crowded, +/- elongate, forming cushionlike mass to 60 cm diam. Leaves many, extending along base of flowering stem, stiff, 1-pinnate; sheath broad, membranous, 4 cm long x 1.5 cm wide, slowly narrowing to apex; stipules similar to pinnae, 35 mm long x 5 mm wide, narrowing to small mucro; leaf with pinnae in 2-3 pairs, petiole and internode (inter-pinnae spacing) short, linear-oblong, c. 3 cm long x 3-4 mm wide, midrib often red, margin slightly thickened, yellow, tapering to pungent mucro. Flowering stem grooved, c. 25 cm long x (2-)4-5 cm wide, upper nude part slender, lower part sheathed by leaves. Inflorescence a globose head of compound umbels; involucral bracts with thick sheaths up to 2 cm long and leaflike stipules and lamina. Primary umbels usually several, c. 2.5 cm diam., secondary umbels on almost filiform rays. Fruit of two mericarps; mericarps narrowly-elliptic to elliptic, 4.0-5.2 mm, with 5 even narrowly winged ribs, 4 smaller ribs on vittae, vittae largely obscured

SIMILAR TAXA

Most similar to *A. spedenii* and *A. congesta*, but the leaves extending along the basal portion of the flowering stem is distinctive



Black Lake, Creek Saddle, Mt Burns.
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Mt Burns, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, White

LIFE CYCLE

Winged schizocarps are dispersed primarily by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

ETYMOLOGY

aciphylla: From the Latin acicula 'needle' and the Greek phyllum 'leaf', meaning needle-leaf.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961), Mark and Adams (1995), Webb and Simpson (2001) and Wilson (1996).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Government Printer, Wellington

Mark, A.F; Adams, N.M. 1995. New Zealand alpine plants, 2nd Edition. Godwit Publishing, Auckland

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora.

Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

Webb, C.J. & Simpson, M.J.A. 2001. Seeds of NZ gymnosperms and dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/aciphylla-crosby-smithii/>