

Aciphylla divisa

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Aciphylla divisa Cheeseman

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

ACIDIV

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Central Canterbury southwards, close to Southern Alps; Common in South Westland.

HABITAT

Low Alpine (1100-1700 m.a.s.l.) often common and conspicuous in higher elevation snow tussock-herbfield.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted herb up to 40 cm tall, densely surrounded by dead leaf-sheaths. **Sheath** up to 80 x 15 mm, submembranous; stipules very slender, approximately 20 mm long, pungent; petioles concavo-convex to flat, about 50-60 mm long; lowest internodes approximately 20 mm long, upper very short. **Primary pinnae** 4-8 pairs, 40-70 mm x 3 mm, tapering to pungent point, margins thickened. Secondary pinnae up to about 50 mm long; tertiary pinnae 1 pair, approximately 20-30 mm long, pale and swollen at base as are secondary pairs. **Flowering stems** of male plants up to 50 cm x 9 mm, usually smaller, ending in corymbose inflorescence up to approximately 100 mm diameter. **Lower bracts** up to approximately 120 mm long, often empty; sheath about 40 x 10 mm; stipules up to 10 x 2 mm, acicular; lamina 3-2-1-pinnate, leaflets up to 40 mm x 1-1.5 mm, acicular. **Umbels** forming heads up to 60 mm diameter, on slender rays up to 5 cm. long; umbellules rather crowded, rays several, very slender. **Flowering stems** of female plants ending in globose panicle up to approximately 100 mm diameter. **Lower bracts** involucrate; sheaths broad; stipules long, subulate, pungent; lamina linear, similar to stipules. **Umbels** on rays up to approximately 25 mm long; umbellules with very slender short rays. **Fruit** approximately 4 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Aciphylla dissecta sheaths are smaller 30 x 3-5mm; stipule tips are threadlike not spiny as in *A. divisa*. These two species do not overlap in range.

FLOWERING

November - January



Birch Hill Stream, Mt Cook, January.
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence:
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FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Yellow

FRUITING

February - March

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.

divisa: Divided

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Dawson & LeComte suggest this species is part of the group with clear juice. They note it may also be seen to hybridise; *A. divisa* x *A. montana* and *A. divisa* x *Anisotome haastii* both seen on Mt. Aoraki and reported by H. D. Wilson.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H. H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1. Wellington: Government Printer. pg. 475.

Dawson, J.W. LeComte, J.R. 1978. Research on *Aciphylla* - a progress report. *Tuatara* 23: pg. 49-67.

Mark, A. F. 2012. Above the Treeline: A Nature Guide to Alpine New Zealand. Craig Potton Publishing, Nelson. pg. 142.

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

MORE INFORMATION

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