

Aciphylla stannensis

COMMON NAME

Tin Range speargrass

SYNOMYS

None

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Aciphylla stannensis J.W.Dawson

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

ACISTA

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

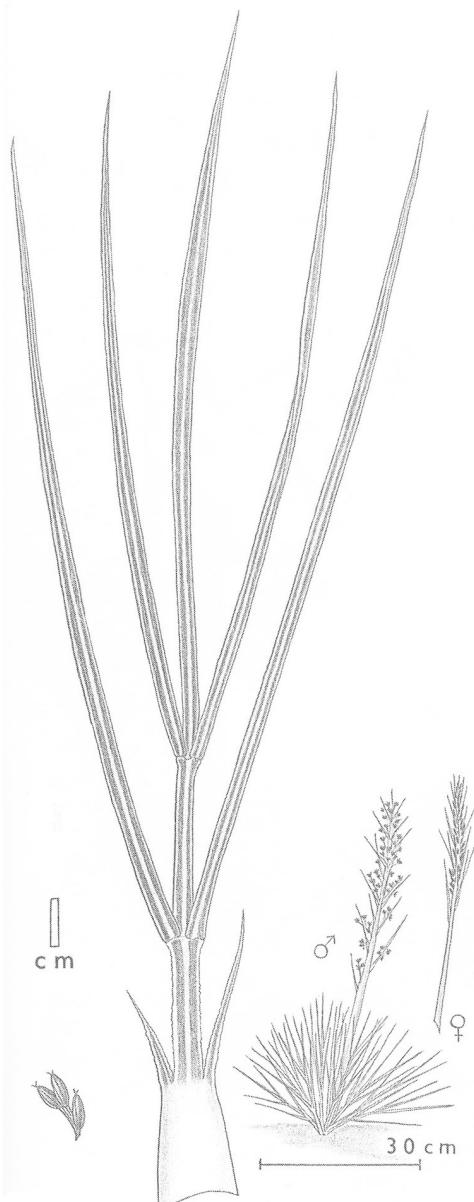
2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Stewart Island, Tin Range between Blaikies Hill and Mt Allen.

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine (550-760 m a.s.l.), in exposed situations, though usually partially sheltered by other shrubs and tussock grasses



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout rosette-forming herb with ascending leaves. Rosettes 1-8(- many). Leaves cartilaginous, orange-green, up to 320 mm or more long, 1-pinnate with 1-2 pairs of leaflets; sheath up to 54 x 8-17 mm; stipules simplex, up to 27 x 1 mm, sometimes absent, spaced up to 6 mm apart at insertions; petiole up to 60 x 6 mm, often shorter, concave, margins acute, sheath joint obscure, pulvinus obscure or rarely evident then up to 5 mm long; lamina more or less obtrullate in profile; lowermost leaflet up to 220 x 5 mm with an apical spine up to 6 mm long, margin and midribs up to 1 mm wide, yellow or orange, margins often raised; marginal tubercles coarse up to 0.15 mm wide, often forming a discontinuous series. Inflorescences narrow. Female inflorescences 0.4-1 m long, with stems up to 250 x 10 mm, reddish brown; head up to 150 x 20 mm, more or less lanceolate in outline; compound umbels up to 22; lower bracts up to 100 mm long with a sheath up to 28 x 8 mm, stipules up to 12 x 1 mm, lamina simple up to 75 x 3 mm, segments ascending to appressed. Lower compound umbels up to 25 mm long, peduncles up to 6 x 1.4 mm, primary bracteoles minute, umbels up to 4 each with peduncles up to 8 x 1 mm, the innermost umbels often sessile, secondary bracteoles few up to 2 x 0.8 mm. Flowers up to 10 per umbel; pedicels up to 2 x 0.9 mm, sepals up to 0.3 mm; petals 1 x 0.6 mm, not inflexed, median oil tube red-brown, staminodes up to 0.6 mm long. Male inflorescence up to 380 mm long, stems up to 150 x 6 mm, reddish-brown; head 230 x 50 mm, narrow-ovate in outline; compound umbels up to 27; lower bracts up to 85 mm long, sheaths up to 30 x 4 mm, stipules up to 10 x 1 mm, lamina simple, up to 54 x 2 mm, segments ascending. Lower compound umbels up to 47 mm long, peduncles up to 23 x 1 mm, primary bracteoles minute; umbels up to 9 with peduncles up to 16 x 0.9 mm, the innermost umbels sessile to subsessile; secondary bracteoles 6-7, up to 1.5 x 0.3 mm. Flowers 12 per umbel, pedicels 3 x 0.4 mm; sepals 0.3 mm long; petals 1.1 x 0.75 mm, not inflexed, median oil-tube conspicuous, red-brown; stamens 1.75 mm long. Mericarps up to 8 x 3.3 mm, pale brown, glossy, each pair with 5/3 or 4/3 ribs; lateral ribs up to 0.5 mm wide; styles up to 1.2 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Close to *A. trifoliolata* Petrie, which is endemic to the South Island on the Lyell Range north of the Buller Gorge. From *A. trifoliolata*, *A. stannensis* differs by the petiole < 1/3 as long as the lamina (1/2 in *A. trifoliolata*), the sheath joint obscure rather than conspicuous, leaflet margin-ribs and midribs 1 mm rather than 0.5 mm wide, female pedicels stout not slender, female petals < 2 as long and broad (rather than 3x longer than broad), larger mericarps (8 x 3 cf. 6 x 1.5 mm) and by the mericarp ribs 0.5 rather than 0.2 mm wide.

FLOWERING

January - February (more information needed)

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Red/Pink

FRUITING

February - April (more information needed)

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown.

THREATS

Unknown. The few available reports for this species suggest it is a very localised, narrow range endemic common within its known habitats. It may be threatened from browsing by white-tailed deer although there have been no reports of this.

ETYMOLOGY

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

stannensis: After The Tin Range, Stewart Island

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2009). Description based on Dawson (1980).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Dawson, J. W. 1980: *Aciphylla trifoliolata* Petrie and *A. stannensis* sp. nov. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 18: 115-120.

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* 11: 285-309.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Aciphylla stannensis* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/aciphylla-stannensis/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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