

# Apium prostratum subsp. denticulatum

## COMMON NAME

Chatham Island celery

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Apiaceae

## AUTHORITY

Apium prostratum subsp. denticulatum P.S.Short

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

APIPSD

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to the Chatham and Antipodes islands

## HABITAT

Coastal. Found on rock shorelines, boulder and sand beaches, on basalt, limestone and schist outcrops and in coastal turf. Also common amongst driftwood and kelp, and within saltmarshes and seepages near the sea. On the outer islands often found in association with burrowing petrels, and so may on occasion be found within tall forest.



Apium prostratum subsp. denticulatum.

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Chatham Islands. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial, glabrous, prostrate herb. Stems prostrate, sprawling, often ascending through surrounding vegetation, not rooting at nodes; 0.3-1.2 m long, up to 6 mm diam. Leaves dark green to yellow green, basal ones on long, slender petioles up to 500 mm (usually much less); pinnately 3-foliolate to 1-2-pinnate with 3-7 leaflets, segments ovate, obovate to cuneate, denticulate; leaves opposite umbels up to 600 mm long; leaflets all primary, 3-5, divided, with margins of primary segments denticulate due to the large number of secondary and tertiary segments, ultimate segments to tertiary order, c.50-120. Inflorescences in compound umbels, sessile or pedunculate; peduncle usually present. 2-20 mm x 1-3 mm, usually ebracteate, sometimes one present, this usually shedding early in umbel maturation. Rays 10-20, 0.4-8 mm long. Petals off-white to cream, with yellow-brown mid vein, ovate 0.75-1.5 x 0.5-1.0 mm, constricted at base, apex acute. Stamens about length of petals, filaments pale yellow to cream; anthers white or pale yellow, 0.3-0.4 x 0.3-0.4 mm. Ovary glabrous, stylopodium disciform; style 0.25-0.40 mm. Mericarps (1.5-)2.0-2.7 mm long, ovate to ovate-oblong, apex narrowed to persistent withered calyx teeth and style remnant, base broad and rounded to weakly cordate; ribs prominent, broad, rounded and spongy. Surface dull yellow to pale brown.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Apium prostratum* subsp. *denticulatum* is endemic to the Chatham and Antipodes islands. It differs from *A. prostratum* subsp. *prostratum* var. *filiforme* by the leaves opposite the umbels up to 60 mm long; primary leaflets 3-5, leaflets or segments markedly denticulate with 6-36 secondary segments per leaflet only. Garden celery (*Apium graveolens* L.) has been reported wild on the Chatham Islands and can look very similar. However, it is an erect, biennial herb with filiform ribs on the mericarps (fruits).

## FLOWERING

(July-) October - February

## FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Yellow

## FRUITING

(September-) February (-May)

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and rooted pieces. The stems are edible and very pleasant tasting.

## THREATS

Not Threatened. Listed because it is a local endemic, abundant on all the main Chatham and Antipodes islands.

## ETYMOLOGY

**apium**: The ancient Latin name for celery or parsley. Believed to be derived from the Celtic word *apon* 'ditch' and refers to the watery habitat of many species

**prostratum**: Prostrate

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson, A. T., Smith, H. A. (1972). *Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning*. Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Apium prostratum* subsp. *denticulatum* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/apium-prostratum-subsp-denticulatum/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/apium-prostratum-subsp-denticulatum/>