

Daucus glochidiatus

COMMON NAME

New Zealand carrot

SYNONYMS

Scandix glochidiata Labill., *Daucus brachiatus* Sieb. in DC.

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Daucus glochidiatus (Labill.) Fisch., C.A.Mey. et Avé-Lall.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

DAUGLO

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: EF, SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: EF, SO

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: SO, DP

2004 | Serious Decline

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island, South Island, Chatham Islands.

Also Australia, Tasmania.

HABITAT

Coastal, lowland to montane on cliff faces, rock outcrops, talus slopes, in short tussockland or grassland and in open forest.



Island Bay Road, Rangitoto. Photographer: Mike Wilcox, Licence: All rights reserved.



Island Bay Road, Rangitoto. Photographer: Mike Wilcox, Licence: All rights reserved.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect, usually hispid, yellow-green to dark reddish green, biennial up to 300–800 mm high (annual in harsh conditions), mostly sparingly branched. **Stems and branches** glabrescent, deeply ribbed or finely striate. **Basal leaves** flaccid, withering at fruiting, glabrous or sparsely covered in stiff hairs, 2–3-pinnate; petioles 10–150 mm long, expanding toward a ± amplexicaul base, ± glabrous or sparsely covered in stiff hairs (sometimes densely so); primary leaflets in 2–8 pairs, petiolules 4–6 mm long; ultimate segments pinnatisect to pinnatifid, ovate, linear-oblong, linear-spathulate, apices mucronulate. **Stem leaves** similar but reduced. **Umbels** axillary and terminal, irregularly compound or simple in stressed specimens, on slender or stout hispid peducles up to 170 mm long. **Rays** 1–11, unequal, primarily up to 160 mm long, secondary up to 15 mm long; bracts (0)–2–5, linear, entire or deeply incised, sometimes pinnatisect, caducous; bracteoles 0–5, simple, linear. **Flowers** 1–10, c. 1 mm diameter, petals white, dirty white or tinged red, withering early and shedding. **Fruit** ellipsoid, dark brown to red-brown (rarely pale brown), 3–5 mm long; primary ribs sparsely to moderately ciliate; secondary ribs glochidiate, glochidia ± 1 mm long, apices capped.

SIMILAR TAXA

Reduced, stressed plants of wild carrot (*Daucus carota*) are frequently confused with native carrot. Wild carrot differs from native carrot by its usually taller stature (up to 1.3 m tall), by the regular umbels that are concave at fruiting, and by the more numerous rays. Species of the naturalised genus *Torilis* (hedge parsley) are also frequently confused with native carrot. *Torilis* is separated from *Daucus* by the floral bracts which are either absent or simple, mostly sessile umbels bearing 2–5 rays, or pedunculate umbels with 2–12 more or less unequal rays. In comparison to wild carrot, *Torilis* plants are usually much taller (up to 2 m tall) and rather leafier, with the leaves much larger and less divided.

FLOWERING

September–February

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

November–June

LIFE CYCLE

Spiny mericarps are dispersed by attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed. Resents root disturbance so should be sown where it is wanted. Does best in a free-draining, open situation. Treat as an annual.

THREATS

This species appears to have undergone a rapid decline over the last 30 years and is now extinct over large parts of its former range. The reason for this decline is not clear though it is likely that competition from faster growing, taller weeds, particularly rat's tail grass (*Sporobolus africanus*) is a key factor. Rat's tail now dominates most of the northern North Island habitats that used to support native carrot.

ETYMOLOGY

daucus: An ancient Greek name

glochidiatus: Barbed

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Description based on herbarium specimens.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/daucus-glochidiatus/>