

# Acaena anserinifolia

## COMMON NAME

bidibid, hutiwai, piripiri

## SYNONYMS

*Acaena pusilla* (Bitter) Allan var. *pusilla*, *A. pusilla* var. *suprasericascens* Bitter, *Acaena viridior* (Cockayne) Allan. The names *A. anserinifolia* var. *sericeinitens* (Bitter) Allan and var. *paucidens*, are referable to *A. profundeincisa* (Bitter) B.Macmillan.

## FAMILY

Rosaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Acaena anserinifolia* (J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.) J.B.Armstr.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

ACAANS

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Found throughout the North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, and Chatham Islands. Naturalised on the Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

## HABITAT

Abundant from lowland to lower subalpine forest margins and in shrublands.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).



Hooker Valley, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



*Acaena anserinifolia*. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stoloniferous, prostrate, trailing and perennial herb, forming diffuse to dense patches up to 1 m diam. **Stems** 1–1.5 mm diameter, prostrate stems < 1 m long, erect stems < 150 mm long (unless scrambling up through surrounding vegetation, in which case taller). **Leaves** 10–75 mm long, stipules 3–8-fid, leaflets 9–13, oblong, 4–17 × 2–9 mm, 7–15-toothed to base, dull green to yellow-green, basal leaves often mottled brown, upper surface sparsely to densely hairy, undersides paler, glaucescent to silvery, and very silky hairy, teeth tipped with a tuft of brush-like hairs. **Inflorescence scape** 40–120 mm long, covered in long, appressed hairs. **Capitulum** 5–8 mm diam. at flowering, 10–20 mm diam. (including spines) at fruiting; florets c. 50–60; sepals 4; stamens 2; anthers white or rose; style 1; white; achene 1. **Fruit** obconic, 3 × 12 mm, hairy, spines 4, pale brown, 4–9 mm long, barbed.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Often grows with *Acaena novae-zelandiae* but can be recognised by the distinctive tuft of brush-like hairs surmounting the leaf teeth apices. Undersides of leaves are distinctly silvery due to dense covering of appressed silky hairs. *Acaena juvenca* and *A. emittens* are closely related. Both can be easily recognised by their very gracile, slender, stems, rather diffuse foliage, by the distal 3–5 leaflets obovate and larger than the basal leaflets, and by the usually entire stipules.

## FLOWERING

October–January

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## FRUITING

December–April

## LIFE CYCLE

Spiny hypanthia are dispersed by attaching to fur, feathers and clothing and possibly also dispersed by wind and granivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and from rooted pieces.

## ETYMOLOGY

**acaena**: From the Greek 'akanthos' thorn, referring to the spiny calyx that many species have

**anserinifolia**: With leaves like *Potentilla anserina*

## ATTRIBUTION

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

## 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>.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/acaena-anserinifolia/>