

Acaena emittens

COMMON NAME

bidibid, piripiri

SYNONYMS

None (described in 1989)

FAMILY

Rosaceae

AUTHORITY

Acaena emittens B.H.Macmill.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

ACAEMI

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (eastern Tongariro National Park, southern Kaimanawa Mountains, Kaweka Range, Taruarau River, Otupae Range, north-west Ruahine Range)

HABITAT

A species of relatively open montane Nothofagus forest and scrub especially that dominated by kahikatoa (*Leptospermum scoparium* J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.), and in open disturbed sites near the bush line.



FEATURES

Slender suffruticose perennial with dark brown subterranean stems < 2 mm diam. Branches prostrate and < 500 mm long or erect and < 50 mm long, c.0.7 mm diameter, brown, hirsute, epidermis flaking with age; internodes < 35 mm long on prostrate stems. Leaves hairy; stipules 2-6 mm long, margins, tips and undersides hairy, free portion linear, entire or bifid, < sheath; leaflets 3 or 4 pairs, the distal leaflet and 2 upper pairs obovate to suborbicular in outline, truncate at apex, shallowly cuneate at base, 2-10 × 2-6 mm; upper surface dull green, glabrous, smooth, with secondary venation indistinct; lower surface pale, glaucescent, the veins with appressed hairs; teeth 7-9 with margins thickened and recurved, hydathodes pink. Basal leaflet pairs less than ½ the size of the penultimate pair, or linear and smaller than stipule lobes. Hairs simple, unicellular, < 1.5 mm long, on stipules, rachis and leaflets. Scapes terminal on short shoots, 40-130 mm long at flowering, hardly elongating as fruit matures, c.0.5 mm diameter, moderately hairy, pale brown. Scape bract linear or foliose, occasionally subtending a single floret. Capitulum 4-6 mm diameter at flowering, 10-15 mm diameter (including spines) at fruiting. Bracteoles on receptacle linear, c. 3 mm long, with hairy margins. Florets c. 40-50, minutely stipitate. Hypanthium c.1 mm long, enclosing perigynous ovary, densely hairy, bearing 4 barbed spines which reach above the hypanthium rim. Sepals 4, arising from hypanthium rim, shortly joined at base, c. 1.5 mm long, elliptic, narrowed and thickened at tip, sparsely hairy on underside. Petals 0. Stamens 2; filaments unequal, up to 2 mm long; anthers 0.3 × 0.5 mm, white. Style 1, 1.5 mm long, including white, fimbriate stigma 0.6 mm broad and protruding from aperture of hypanthium. Fruit indehiscent with a single achene enclosed in the hypanthium, obconic, c.2.0 × 1.2 mm, brown, moderately hairy, 4-ribbed; spines 1 per rib, slender, 4-6 mm long, pale rose or brown, bearing a single rank of translucent, retrorse barbs at tip.

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *A. anserinifolia* (J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.) J.B.Armstr. from which it differs by the leaves < 50 mm long, spathulate; leaflet pairs 3-4, these abruptly reduced in size below the 2 uppermost; leaflet lamina obovate to suborbicular with the teeth, crenate, glossy, 3-5 per side; hairs appressed, absent from upper surface, predominantly on midrib and main veins of lower surface; by the veins indistinct on the upper leaflet surface; by the linear, entire, rarely bifid stipules; by the smaller capitula 4-6 mm diameter at flowering 10-15 mm diameter at fruiting; and small fruits (c.2.0 × 1.5 mm) and spines (4-6 mm long).

FLOWERING

December – February

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

January – May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and from rooted pieces.

THREATS

A Naturally Uncommon endemic of the Central North Island. Although it is not known to be threatened it is not generally that common either

ETYMOLOGY

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

ATTRIBUTION

Description from Macmillan (1989).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Macmillan, B.H. 1989: *Acaena juvenca* and *Acaena emittens* (Rosaceae) - two new species from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 27: 109-117.

MORE INFORMATION

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