Acaena rorida

SYNONYMS
Acaena microphylla var. microphylla Hook. f.q

FAMILY
Rosaceae

AUTHORITY
Acaena rorida B.H.Macmill.

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Dicotyledonous Herbs other than Composites

NVS CODE
ACAROR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 42

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL
2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. North Island. North West Ruahine Range, where it is only known from ravines draining the Mangaohane Plateau and from the nearby Makiriki Tarns.

HABITAT
Damp hollows within tussock grassland, and associated limestone ravines.

FEATURES
Stoloniferous, prostrate, perennial herb, forming dense patches. Prostrate stems c.70-250 mm long, rooting at nodes, erect stems 3-15 x 0.7 mm, brown, sparsely hairy. Leaves imparipinnate, 1-2(-5) x 5-12 mm. Stipules 2-4 mm long, margins and tips hairy, free portion 1 mm long, entire or bifid, acuminate, Leaflets 4-5, reducing in size toward base, suborbicular, 2-7 x 2-5 mm, truncate at apex; upper surface dull, pale olive, apple green or pinkish-purple, glabrous, veins distinct; lower surface paler, subglaucous; veins with appressed hairs; teeth 7-11, brown. Scapes 6-15 mm long at flowering, on short shoots hidden in foliage, densely hairy, scape bract 0 or 1, leaf-like. Capitulum 4-5 mm diam., 10 mm diam (including spines) at fruiting; florets c.10-12; sepals 4, stamens 2; styles 2; both white. Fruit 1.5 x 1.5 mm. Achenes 2, enclosed within turbinate, red-brown, 4-ribbed, hypanthium. Spines 0 or 1, 1-10(-15) mm long, pale red, tapered to naked tip.

SIMILAR TAXA
Acaena microphylla Hook.f. is rather similar. This species has rich-green to greenish brown mottled foliage with shining cuticles, and scapes up to 250 mm long, which hold the capitula well above the foliage. As far as is known A. microphylla is not present in the North West Ruahine area.
FLOWERING
Although exact flowering times are not known, plants have been seen in flower in April.

FLOWER COLOURS
White

FRUITING
Although exact fruiting times are unknown plants have been seen in fruit in April.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Easily grown by division. This species rarely flowers in cultivation (at least within the North Island - although it has been reported that the species flowers each year in Dunedin) and it would seem that no one has yet tried to germinate seed.

THREATS
Weed invasion by Pilosella spp., Agrostis spp. and hybridisation with Acaena anserinifolia.

ETYMOLOGY
*acaena*: From the Greek ‘akanthos’ thorn, referring to the spiny calyx that many species have
*rorida*: From the Latin meaning dewy, wet with dew

ATTRIBUTION

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

CITATION
Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): Acaena rorida Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. [https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/acaena-rorida/](https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/acaena-rorida/) (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION