

# Acaena rorida

## SYNONYMS

*Acaena microphylla* var. *microphylla* Hook. f. & G.

## FAMILY

Rosaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Acaena rorida* 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

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 Makirikiri Tarns.

## HABITAT

Damp hollows within tussock grassland, and associated limestone ravines.



Fruiting in Research gardens, Botany Department. Photographer: Kelvin Lloyd



Makirikiri Tarns, Jan 1993. Photographer: G. M. Crowcroft

## 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

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 October 2003. Description adapted from MacMillan (1991).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Macmillan, B.H. 1991: *Acaena rorida* and *Acaena tesca* (Rosaceae) — two new species from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 29: 131-138

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

## NZPCN FACT SHEET 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/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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