

Acaena rorida

SYNONYMS

Acaena microphylla var. *microphylla* Hook.f.

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

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

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.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).



Fruiting in Research gardens, Botany Department. Photographer: Kelvin Lloyd, Licence: All rights reserved.



Makirikiri Tarns, Jan 1993. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stoloniferous, prostrate, perennial herb, forming dense patches. Prostrate stems c.70–250 mm long, rooting at nodes, erect stems 3–15 × 0.7 mm, brown, sparsely hairy. Leaves imparipinnate, 1–2(–5) × 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 × 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 × 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* 11(4): 285–309.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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