

Aciphylla anomala

FAMILY
Apiaceae

AUTHORITY
Aciphylla anomala Allan

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE
ACIANO

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Inconspicuous sparse rosettes of long spikey leaves without stipules and with variable numbers of leaflets per leaf and with a sparsely leaved tall flower spike

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. NW Nelson

HABITAT

Snow tussock herbfield 1400-1700 m

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender tufted herb to 45 cm tall when in flower. Rosettes single or few. Leaves few, rather flaccid, 3-2 foliate or occ. reduced to a single leaflet (all forms may be present on a single plant). Sheath thin, pale, c. 80 mm long x 10 mm wide, tapering to apex; stipules absent or vestigial; petioles c. 7-8 cm long x 2 mm wide, keeled in lower part, flat in upper; internodes absent; primary pinnae 1 pair, approximate to terminal leaflet, flat, striate, margins finely serrulate-crenulate, c. 8 cm long x 2mm wide, abruptly narrowing to pungent point; terminal leaflet to 10 cm long x 3 mm wide, sometimes with 1 short accessory pinnule. Flowering stem of male plants slender, ribbed, lower bracts sometimes without flowers; bract sheaths c. 3 cm long, thin, pale, tapering to a pair of narrow-linear, pungent, unequal stipules up to 5 mm long; bract lamina up to 7 cm long x 1 mm wide, pungent; umbels rather distant, on slender rays up to 2 cm long; umbellules several, c. 3 mm in diam., on filiform rays c. 2 mm long; flowers minute. Flowering stem of female plants similar but stouter, up to 10 mm diam.; bract sheaths firmer, furrowed, broader; stipules often reduced to one; bract lamina up to 10 cm long x 4 mm wide, midrib more evident, pungent; umbels more or less hidden by bracts, on short peduncles; umbellules few on short slender rays; fruit of two mericarps; mericarps (5.5-)6.0-8.5(-9.0), with 3-5 narrowly winged ribs, vittae sometimes obscured

SIMILAR TAXA

Most similar to *A. polita* which has a more congested inflorescence



Mt Arthur, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

LIFE CYCLE

Winged schizocarps are dispersed primarily by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

ETYMOLOGY

aciphylla: From the Latin acicula 'needle' and the Greek phyllum 'leaf', meaning needle-leaf.

anomala: From the Greek anomalía 'unusual'

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961), Mark and Adams (1995) and Webb and Simpson (2001).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Alla, H. H. (1961). Flora of New Zealand, Volume 1: Indigenous Tracheophyta - Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledons. Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Wellington, New Zealand.

Mark, A.F; Adams, N.M. 1995. New Zealand alpine plants, 2nd Edition. Godwit Publishing, Auckland

Webb, C.J. & Simpson, M.J.A. 2001. Seeds of NZ gymnosperms and dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/aciphylla-anomala/>