

# Aciphylla cartilaginea

## FAMILY

Apiaceae

## AUTHORITY

Aciphylla cartilaginea Petrie

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

ACICAR

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Low thick-leaved orange-green spikey clumps on Stewart Island

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Stewart Island. Mt Rakeahua and Tin Range south to Smith's Lookout

## HABITAT

Subalpine boggy grassland and herbfield

## FEATURES

Low-growing cartilaginous-leaved herb. Rosettes single to several, closely-spaced. Leaves 6-9 cm long; pinnae stiff, usually in 2 pairs, 3-4 cm long x 2.5-3 mm wide, grooved; midrib conspicuous, broad, yellow; margins thick, obvious, yellow; apex pungent. Flowering stems to 20 cm tall but usually shorter particularly in male plants, appearing thick for size of plant, orange, umbels 5-6, crowded, more spreading in female plants and on obvious rays, in males flower barely exceeding bract sheath; sheaths broad. Fruit consisting of 2 mericarps; mericarps (3.0-3.5-5.5 mm, mostly with 5 ribs and single internal vittae

## SIMILAR TAXA

Closest in similarity to *A. kirkii* of Central Otago which does not have such obvious thickened margins to the leaf and whose range does not overlap with *A. cartilaginea*

## FLOWERING

December

## FRUITING

February-March



## ETYMOLOGY

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

**cartilaginea:** Like cartilage

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961), Webb and Simpson (2001), Wilson (1996) and Wilson (1982).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

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

Wilson, H.D. 1996. Wild plants of Mount Cook National Park. Manuka Press, Christchurch

Wilson, H.D. 1982. Stewart Island plants. Whitcoulls Ltd, Christchurch

## MORE INFORMATION

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