

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

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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, Lycopsidea, 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/>