

Aciphylla crenulata

FAMILY
Apiaceae

AUTHORITY
Aciphylla crenulata J.B.Armstrong

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE
ACICRE

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
 $2n = 22$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

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

BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Herb with sparse spiky leaves which have a thickened notched margin.
Inconspicuous unless flowering

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. South Island, close to and west of Main divide

HABITAT
Higher rainfall snow tussock-herbfield. 900 - 1700 m a.s.l.



Gertrude Valley, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Gertrude Valley. Photographer: John Barkla

FEATURES

Slender herb forming lax tufts to 60 cm tall in flower. Rosettes single or several. Leaves few, flexible, rather flaccid, 1-pinnate, to 15 cm long x 5 mm wide; sheath broad, thin; stipules slender, spinulose; primary pinnae in (1-)2-3(-4) pairs, laminae of pinna widely spaced, linear, 5-15 cm long x 2-5 mm wide, midrib often bright red, margins thickened and finely crenulate, tapering to pungent point. Male flowering stem slender, inflorescence elongate, dense-flowered, 10-30(-40) cm long; bracts many, spreading; bract sheath short, membranous; bract stipules short, pungent; bract lamina slender, to 4 cm long. Umbels and umbellules on long slender rays. Female flowering stem denser, forming an inflorescence to 60 cm long; lower bracts often empty; peduncles and rays long, slender. Fruit of two mericarps; mericarps narrowly oblong-elliptic to elliptic, (6.0-)6.5-9.0 mm, with 3-4 even narrowly winged ribs, other ribs not evident, vittae evident as narrow dark ribs between wings

SIMILAR TAXA

Most similar in appearance to *A. lyallii* which is larger and whose leaves are variably either simple or with up to 7 leaflets or *A. indurata* which is only known from NW Nelson and which is also a larger plant and with 2-pinnate leaves

FLOWERING

December-January

FRUITING

February-March

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.

crenulata: From the Latin *crenus* 'notch', meaning with notches which give a leaf margin the appearance of having small rounded teeth

WHERE TO BUY

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961), Mark and Adams (1995), Webb and Simpson (2001) and Wilson (1996).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Allan, H.H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Government Printer, Wellington
- Mark, A.F; Adams, N.M. 1995. New Zealand alpine plants, 2nd Edition. Godwit Publishing, Auckland
- Wilson, H.D. 1996. Wild plants of Mt Cook National Park. 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
- Webb, C.J. & Simpson, M.J.A. 2001. Seeds of NZ gymnosperms and dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch

MORE INFORMATION

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