

Aciphylla dissecta

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Aciphylla dissecta (Kirk) W.R.B.Oliv.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

ACIDIS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

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

Higher-altitude spiky feathery tufts with clusters of white flowers on a thick stalk

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island; Tararua Ranges

HABITAT

Low alpine snow tussock grass-herbfield. Often hidden amongst tussocks unless flowering (or sat on). 1000-1600 m a.s.l.

FEATURES

Herb forming stout tufts to 30-40 cm tall in flower. Rosettes usually single. Leaves many, stiff, coriaceous, (2)-3-pinnate, to 30 cm long; sheath narrow, to 3 cm long x 3 mm wide; stipules almost filiforme, c. 10 mm long, sometimes forked, sharply pointed; petioles 10-15 mm long, inter-pinna spacing short; primary pinnae in 8-10 pairs, linear-oblong, c. 2-5 cm long; secondary pinnae further cut into several pungent, ascending pinnules to 25 mm long x 1-1.5 mm wide. Female flowering stem stout, grooved, c. 30 cm long x 1 cm wide; flowering stem bracts leaflike, lower bract sheaths c. 3 cm long x 5 mm wide, with scarious margins, lower bract stipules



Mt Jumbo, Tararua (January). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Jumbo, Tararua Range. Photographer: John Sawyer

SIMILAR TAXA

Most similar to *A. divisa* of southern Westland and western Fiordland, which has less divided leaves and also *A. dieffenbachii* of the Chatham Islands which is usually a much larger plant found only on some of the Chatham Islands

FLOWER COLOURS

White

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.

dissecta: Dissected

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961), Mark and Adams (1005) and Webb and Simpson (2001).

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;

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-dissecta/>