Aciphylla hookeri

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Tufted sparse-leaved herb up to 30 cm tall, stock usually simple, taproot stout. **Leaves** up to approximately 20 cm long, 2-1 pinnate. Sheath very thin, approximately 70 x 10 mm, narrowing gradually to apex; stipules approximately 10 mm long, simple or sometimes with accessory segments; petiole crenulate-serrulate, approximately 40 mm long; lower internodes rather distant. **Primary pinnae** up to 20 mm long, with 1-(2) pairs of pinnules; all segments keeled, grooved, pungent, giving a squarrose appearance. **Flowering stems** sometimes leafy below, stout, grooved, up to 30 cm long including narrow paniculate inflorescence approximately 150 mm long. **Bracts** usually many, leaflike, up to approximately 100 mm long; sheaths roughly 50 mm long; stipules up to 10 mm long, unequal, acicular; lamina pinnate, approximately 50 mm long, segments pungent. **Umbels** several, on 5-10 unequal slender rays less than bracts. Umbellules small, on short slender rays. **Fruit** approximately 4-5 mm long, mericarps with 3-5 wings.

Croesus Track. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA
Aciphylla anomala is similar in habit, but differs by longer thicker petioles (80 x 2 mm) and leaflets (100 x 2.5 mm); flower bract stems have shorter stipules (5 mm).

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. Te Waipounamu | South Island, North-west Nelson to Aurthur's Pass mostly on western side.

HABITAT
Low-alpine (900-1400 m.a.s.l.) uncommon, snow tussock-herbfield.

GENUS
Aciphylla

FAMILY
Apiaceae

AUTHORITY
Aciphylla hookeri Kirk

TAXONOMIC NOTES
Dawson & LeComte suggest this species is part of the group with clear juice. They note it may also be seen to hybridise; *A. hookeri* x *A. indurata* seen at Mt. Bovis, reported by W. R. B. Oliver; *A. hookeri* x *A. townsonii* seen in the Lyell Range, reported J. W. Dawson (In the last case the probable hybrids were growing in large patches of granite boulders and were so varied that they must include back crosses).

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
December – February (-March)

FRUITING
January – April

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
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.
hookeri: Named after Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker (born 1817) - a world famous botanist who travelled on the Antarctic expedition of 1839 under the command of Sir James Ross and wrote "Handbook of New Zealand Flora" published in 1864-67 describing many specimens sent to Kew by collectors. He died in 1911 and has a memorial stone at Westminster Abbey London.

NVS CODE
ACIHOO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Allan, H. H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1. Wellington: Government Printer. pg. 476-477.
Dawson, J.W. LeComte, J.R. 1978. Research on Aciphylla - a progress report. Tuatara 23: pg. 49-67.
Mark, A. F. 2012. Above the Treeline: A Nature Guide to Alpine New Zealand. Craig Potton Publishing, Nelson. pg. 148.
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

ATTRIBUTION
Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961).
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MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/aciphylla-hookeri/

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