

Aciphylla indurata

COMMON NAME

taramea

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Aciphylla indurata Cheeseman

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

ACIIND

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Data Deficient

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Data Deficient

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, south west Nelson and Westland

HABITAT

Sub-alpine to low-alpine (900-1300 m.a.s.l.)

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender sparse-leaved tufted herb, taproot deeply descending, stem stout, up to 60 cm tall. **Leaves** about 30 cm long, pinnate; pinnae 3-foliolate or the lowest again pinnate. **Sheaths** approximately 50 x 10 mm, thin, tapering to spinous-pointed; **stipules** up to 20 mm long (stipules occasionally vestigial). **Petioles** 30-50 mm long; midrib stout, winged; lower internodes 20-30 mm long, midrib prominent. **Primary pinnae** usually 3-6 pairs, up to approximately 150 mm long. Terminal leaflet up to 140 x 5-8 mm, striate, with strong reddish to yellow midrib; margins thickened, serrulate-crenulate, apex pungent. **Flowering stems** of male plants stout, up to 60cm x 10 mm including stout oblong inflorescence up to 30 cm long. **Bracts** numerous, sheaths up to 40 mm x 14 mm; stipules rigid, approximately 10 mm long; lamina usually simple, approximately 50 x 2-3 mm. **Umbels** on very slender primary rays approximately 10 mm long; umbellules up to 5 mm diameter, on few capillary rays. **Flowering stems** of female plants up to 60 cm x 10 mm; inflorescence more compact. Bract-sheaths approximately 40 x 10 mm; stipules up to 10 x 2 mm, gradually narrowed to pungent apex; lamina on petiole up to 10 mm long, with a pair of 3-foliolate leaflets, somewhat squarrose; longest leaflet up to 40 mm long. **Umbels** numerous, roughly concealed by bracts. **Fruit** approximately 3-4 mm long.



Croesus Track, Paparoa Range. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 25/02/2006, Licence: CC BY-NC-ND.

SIMILAR TAXA

Aciphylla crenulata is a softer plant with shorter (15 cm) 1-pinnate leaves.

FLOWERING

(December-) January - February

FRUITING

January - March

ETYMOLOGY

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

indurata: Not hard

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

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.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961) and Mark (2012).

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.

Te Papa Museum. 2021. WELT Herbarium search - *Aciphylla indurata* - Collections Online Home Page. Te Papa Collections Online. 2004. Accessed December 15th, 2021. <http://collections.tepapa.govt.nz> (Physical collection was observed to view specimen(s) phenology not yet pictured online).

MORE INFORMATION

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