

Aciphylla multisecta

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Aciphylla multisecta Cheeseman

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

ACIMUL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (central Canterbury and Westland south to Fiordland).

HABITAT

High altitude alpine (> 1300 m a.s.l.) on rock ledges, cliff faces and in or around seepages, or below snow melts.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Short, tufted herb forming patches up to 250 × 400 mm. **Rootstock** simple or branched. **Leaves** 60–100 mm, rigid, 3-pinnatisect. **Sheath** up to 50 × 25 mm, deeply ribbed; margins membranous. **Stipules** 30–50 mm long, 1–2–(3)-pinnate, tapering, on short to very short ligules, pungent. **Petioles** up to 150 mm long, rather stout and rigid, concavo-convex; margins thickened. **Internodes** 15 mm long. **Primary pinnae** 4–8 pairs; secondary 2–4 pairs; tertiary rather slender, almost filiform, 20–40 × 1 mm, apex pungent. **Stems** of female plants stout, 30 mm long, with inflorescence up to 150 mm long. **Bract-sheaths** chartaceous, c. 40 × 10 mm, including short ligule; stipules acicular, up to 10 mm long; lamina 2–3-pinnate, 40 mm long, on petioles up to 10 mm long. **Umbels** numerous, forming a dense globose panicle 60–100 mm diameter. **Primary rays** up to 40 × 1 mm, grooved. **Umbellules** numerous, up to 30 mm diameter, on rather slender rays. **Fruit** c. 3 mm long, narrow; mericarps 4–5-winged.



Gertrude Valley. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

Aciphylla multisecta is perhaps most closely allied to *A. divisa* and *A. dissecta*, species from which it differs by possessing simple, 1–2–(3)-pinnate stipules 30–50 mm long, and stout, rather rigid petioles that are 80–150 mm long, and by its densely compacted, subglobose panicle. *Aciphylla* is seriously in need of revision, using modern techniques. Until such time as such a revision is completed, the relationships and distinctions between many of the taxa accepted by Flora of New Zealand Volume I, will remain unclear.

FLOWERING

November–December

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

November–January

LIFE CYCLE

Winged schizocarps are dispersed primarily by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild

THREATS

Unlikely to be threatened. However it is known from very few collections and does not seem to be that common where it has been found. Partly this perception may be due to the fact that it favours high elevation cliff habitats that are not frequented by botanists but it does seem to be scarce and sparsely distributed over large parts of apparently suitable habitat, and this appears to be a naturally rather than induced pattern.

ETYMOLOGY

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

multisecta: Many divisions

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 February 2004. Description adapted from Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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