

Aciphylla trifoliolata

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Aciphylla trifoliolata Petrie

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

ACITRI

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, upper Buller Gorge, on the Lyell Range.

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine (>1300 m a.s.l.) on rocky ground, in and around rock outcrops and in adjacent short grassland.



DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout rosetted plants with ascending leaves. Leaves cartilaginous, yellow to orange-green, up to 400 mm long, once-pinnate with 1-2 pairs of leaflets; sheath up to 75 x 8-19 mm; stipules simple up to 40 x 1 mm, set up to 6 mm apart at insertions; petiole up to 110 x 4.5 mm, concave, margins acute, sheath joint evident, pulvinus evident, up to 10 mm long; lamina more or less obtrullate in outline; lowermost leaflet up to 190 x 5.5 mm with an apical spine up to 3 mm long, margins and midribs yellow, up to 0.5 mm wide; marginal tubercles coarse, up to 0.15 mm wide, in a continuous series. Inflorescences narrow. Female up to 450 mm long with stems up to 285 x 7 mm, reddish brown; head up to 170 x 17 mm, lanceolate in outline; compound umbels up to 22; lower bracts up to 100 mm long with a sheath up to 28 x 8 mm, stipules up to 20 x 1.5 mm, lamina simple, up to 65 x 3.5 mm, all segments ascending to appressed. Lower compound umbels up to 30 mm long with peduncles up to 6 x 1 mm, primary bracteoles often absent; up to 4 simple umbels with peduncles up to 17 x 0.7 mm, the innermost often sessile; secondary bracteoles few, up to 3 x 0.3 mm, often with a few accessory umbels in bract axils. Flowers up to 10 per umbel; pedicels up to 4 x 0.4 mm, sepals 0.5 mm; petals 1.3 x 0.4 mm not inflexed, median oil tube red; staminodes 0.75 mm long. Male inflorescences up to 320 mm long, stems up to 140 x 6 mm, reddish brown; head up to 180 x 50 mm, narrow-ovate in outline, compound umbels up to 26; lower bracts up to 100 mm long with sheath up to 30 x 8 mm, stipules up to 30 x 1 mm, lamina simple up to 74 x 4 mm, segments ascending. Lower compound umbels up to 50 mm long, peduncles up to 30 x 1 mm, primary bracteoles usually wanting, up to 9 simple umbels with peduncles up to 10 x 0.5 mm, innermost umbels subsessile to sessile. Flowers up to 12 per umbel; pedicels up to 2 x 0.1 mm; sepals up to 0.3 mm long; petals 1.1 x 0.5 mm, not inflexed, median oil tube red; stamens 1.75 mm long. Mericarps dull, dark brown 6 x 1.5, each pair with 5/3, 5/4 or 4/3 ribs; lateral ribs 0.2 mm wide; styles up to 0.8 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Close to *A. stannensis* J.W.Dawson, a Stewart Island endemic found only on the Tin Range. From *A. stannensis*, *A. trifoliolata* differs by the petiole 1/2 as long as the lamina (< 1/3 in *A. stannensis*), the sheath joint evident rather than obscure, leaflet margin-ribs and midribs 0.5 mm rather than 1 mm wide, female pedicels slender not stout, female petals 3x longer than broad (rather than < 2 as long and broad), smaller mericarps (6 x 1.5 cf. 8 x 3 mm) and by the mericarp ribs 0.2 rather than 0.5 mm wide.

FLOWERING

January

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Red/Pink

FRUITING

January - March

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown.

THREATS

A very local, narrow-range endemic common in the small area it occupies. It may be threatened by browsing animals. A full survey and monitoring is needed to ascertain its exact status, most of our current knowledge stems from surveys of this species known habitats undertaken during 1978.

ETYMOLOGY

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

trifoliolata: With three leaflets

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 28 May 2006: Description adapted from Dawson (1980).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Dawson, J. W. 1980: *Aciphylla trifoliolata* Petrie and *A. stannensis* sp. nov. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 18: 115-120.

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* 11:285-309

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Aciphylla trifoliolata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/aciphylla-trifoliolata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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