

Anisotome latifolia

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, PD, RR

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

A large perennial member of the carrot family reaching up to 1 metre across and up to 2 metres in height when flowering. The large twice-pinnate leaves are yellow-green to dark green, overtopped by a robust pale green flower stem which has clusters of pale-pink or mauve flowers on top. Found only on the Campbell Island and the Auckland Islands group.

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Robust perennial herb reaching up to 2 m tall. **Basal leaves** firmly coriaceous, ovate 0.3–0.6 × 0.1–0.2 dm; 2-pinnate, leaflets in 5–7 pairs, dark green to yellow-green, ovate to lanceolate, shortly petiolulate or sessile; leaflet margins cartilaginous, pinnatifid or deeply incised into broad toothed or incised segments; teeth acute, piliferous with hairs 2.0–3.5 mm long; petioles 0.15–0.3m × 7.0–15.0 mm, subterete, with a central ridge on the somewhat flattened adaxial surface; sheaths 50–80 × 35–50 mm, prolonged at the apex into two broad lobes free from the petioles by 2–3 mm; cauline leaf sheaths markedly inflated; peduncles 20–150 mm long. **Inflorescence axis** up to 2 m × 10–15 mm diameter at first node. **Flowers** off white to pale creamy pink. **Staminate flowers** held within an involucre of linear to lanceolate bracts 5–15 × 1–2 mm; involucre of several linear to lanceolate bracteoles 3.0–7.0 × 0.5–1.5 mm; rays 20–40, 5–20 mm long; pedicels 20–40, 2–5 mm long. **Pistillate flowers** similar, involucre bracts linear to broadly lanceolate, 10–35 × 1–5 mm, involucre bracteoles linear to lanceolate 2.0–10.0 × 0.5–2.0 mm, rays 20–40, 10–35 mm long, pedicels 15–30, 1–5 mm long; styles slender, 1–2 mm long, divergent. **Merica** elliptic, elliptic-ovate, elliptic-oblong or narrowly elliptic, 3.5–5.5–7.0 mm long; apex usually slightly narrowed and obtuse, sometimes rounded, base obtuse to truncate; 2–5-ribbed; ribs usually even, sometimes irregular, equal thin, finely winged with a narrow hyaline margin; surface dull; ribs yellow, dark yellow or orange; vittae usually obscured in mature mericarps, if visible dark red-brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Probably allied to *Anisotome acutifolia* Kirk, *A. antipoda* Hook.f. and *A. lyallii* Hook.f., four species that can grow as tall as 2 m when flowering and are confined to the southern South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura (*A. lyallii*) or the Subantarctic Islands (*A. acutifolia*, *A. antipoda* and *A. latifolia*). *Anisotome latifolia* is sympatric on the Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku with *A. antipoda* from which it can be easily distinguished by its much more coarsely divided leaves, and off white to pale pink rather than dark pink to magenta flowers.



Sub Antarctic Islands. Photographer: Chris Rance, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Campbell Island. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Auckland Islands and Motu Ihupuku | Campbell Island.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane on peaty ground amongst boulders, tussocks and other megaherbs, more rarely under scrub and low forest. Most abundant at lower altitudes.

THREATS

No apparent threats. Listed because it is naturally confined to a small geographic area. It is abundant on Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku and common on those islands of the Auckland group free of browsing animals.

GENUS

Anisotome

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Anisotome latifolia Hook.f.

SYNONYMS

Ligusticum latifolium (Hook.f.) Hook.f., Calosciadium latifolium (Hook.f.) Endl. ex Walp., Aciphylla latifolia (Hook.f.) Cockayne

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October – February.

FRUITING

January – March.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Easily grown in a deep, peaty, permanently damp soil. Resent hot, humid weather and prone to collapse under such conditions. A beautiful plant that deserves to be more widely cultivated than it currently is.

ETYMOLOGY

anisotome: Unequal sided

latifolia: From the Latin *latus* meaning broad, and *folium* meaning leaf, relating to the “broad-leaved” foliage of the plant.

NVS CODE

ANILAT

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Dawson JW. 1961. A revision of the genus *Anisotome* (Umbelliferae). *University of California Publications in Botany* 33: 1–98.

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>.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2007. Description based on Dawson (1961).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/anisotome-latifolia/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026