

Anisotome lyallii

COMMON NAME

Lyall's carrot

SYNONYMS

Ligusticum lyallii Hook.f., *Anisotome intermedia* Hook.f., *Ligusticum intermedium* Hook.f., *Ligusticum intermedium* var. *oblongifolium* Kirk, *Anisotome intermedia* var. *oblongifolium* (Kirk) Cheeseman

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Anisotome lyallii Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

ANILYA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Relict | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Fiordland coast from Jacksons Bay to Puysegur Point, Nugget Point to South Head), Stewart Island/Rakiura (common along western and southern coastline), Solander Island / Hautere.

HABITAT

Coastal. On steep, south facing, sparsely vegetated cliffs, and in coastal turf, herbfield and on damp peaty ledges. Sometimes in coastal grassland, on boulder falls and even on sand dunes and beaches. In all its habitats it always found near the sea often within the spray zone.



Cannibal Bay (January). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Cannibal Bay (January). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb up to 0.8 m tall. **Basal leaves** on petioles 10–150 × 15–100 mm; sheaths 3–130 × 15–40 mm (sheaths of cauline leaves inflated); lamina oblanceolate to oblong, 0.10–0.45 × 0.02–0.13 m, 2–3-pinnate; primary leaflets 5–10 pairs, rhomboid, deltoid to ovate, shortly petiolate, coriaceous; secondary leaflets spatulate to rhomboid, sometimes ovate; leaflet margins not thickened, often pinnatifid, rarely deeply incised into broad or narrow, toothed segments; teeth obtuse to acute, not piliferous. **Inflorescence** up to 0.9 m tall and 10 mm diameter at the first node; peduncles 20–150 mm long. **Flowers** dirty white to white. **Staminate plants:** involucre comprising several linear to lanceolate bracts, 4–18 × 0.5–2.5 mm; involucre of several linear bracteoles 2–10 × 0.25–1 mm; rays 10–35, 5–25 mm long; pedicels 10–30, 1–5 mm long. **Carpellate plants:** involucre of several linear to lanceolate bracts 5–25 × 0.5–5 mm, the bracts sometimes bearing reduced blade at the tip; involucre of several linear bracteoles 2–10 × 0.5–1.5 mm; rays 4–30, 5–30 mm long; pedicels 5–25, 1–7 mm long; styles slender, 1–2 mm long, divergent to divaricate. **Mericarps** narrowly elliptic to elliptic, ovate or elliptic-ovate, 4.0–7.5 mm long; apex usually slightly narrowed; base obtuse to truncate; 5-ribbed, ribs even, equal, thin, narrowly winged, opaque or translucent at margin; surface dull, ribs orange, orange-brown or dark brown, vittae visible or partially obscured, red-brown or dark brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most closely allied to *A. acutifolia* Kirk, which is a much larger, soloniferous plant with wider, coarsely toothed leaves and ligulate leaf sheaths. *Anisotome acutifolia* is allopatric from *A. lyallii* and is endemic to the Snares Islands/Tini Heke group.

FLOWERING

November–January

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

January–March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and rooted pieces. Prefers a sunny situation. It should be planted in a deep, permanently moist, peaty soil. This species does not like humidity and hot climates, and does best in a south facing or cool site, even though for it flower it needs full sun for most of the day.

THREATS

Accessible populations in Fiordland and on Stewart Island/Rakiura are probably browsed by deer. It is very common on Solander Island / Hautere and occurs in reasonable numbers in the south-eastern part of the South Island. Nevertheless because this species is being browsed by deer it is probably in decline.

ETYMOLOGY

anisotome: Unequal sided

lyallii: Named after David Lyall (1817–1895), 19th century Scottish naturalist and surgeon with the Royal Navy, who explored Antarctica, New Zealand, the Arctic and North America and was a lifelong friend of Sir Joseph Hooker.

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

ATTRIBUTION

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

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>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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