

Apium prostratum subsp. denticulatum

COMMON NAMES

Chatham Island celery

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial, glabrous, prostrate herb. Stems prostrate, sprawling, often ascending through surrounding vegetation, not rooting at nodes; 0.3-1.2 m long, up to 6 mm diam. Leaves dark green to yellow green, basal ones on long, slender petioles up to 500 mm (usually much less); pinnately 3-foliolate to 1-2-pinnate with 3-7 leaflets, segments ovate, obovate to cuneate, denticulate; leaves opposite umbels up to 600 mm long; leaflets all primary, 3-5, divided, with margins of primary segments denticulate due to the large number of secondary and tertiary segments, ultimate segments to tertiary order, c.50-120. Inflorescences in compound umbels, sessile or pedunculate; peduncle usually present. 2-20 mm x 1-3 mm, usually ebracteate, sometimes one present present, this usually shedding early in umbel maturation. Rays 10-20, 0.4-8 mm long. Petals off-white to cream, with yellow-brown mid vein, ovate 0.75-1.5 x 0.5-1.0 mm, constricted at base, apex acute. Stamens about length of petals, filaments pale yellow to cream; anthers whitre or pale yellow, 0.3-0.4 x 0.3-0.4 mm. Ovary glabrous, stylopodium disciform; style 0.25-0.40 mm. Mericarps (1.5-)2.0-2.7 mm long, ovate to ovate-oblong, apex narrowed to persistent withered calyx teeth and style remnant, base broad and rounded to weakly cordate; ribs prominent, broad, rounded and spongy. Surface dull yellow to pale brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Apium prostratum subsp. *denticulatum* is endemic to the Chatham and Antipodes islands. It differs from *A. prostratum* subsp. *prostratum* var. *filiforme* by the leaves opposite the umbels up to 60 mm long; primary leaflets 3-5, leaflets or segments markedly denticulate with 6-36 secondary segments per leaflet only. Garden celery (*Apium graveolens* L.) has been reported wild on the Chatham Islands and can look very similar. However, it is an erect, biennial herb with filiform ribs on the mericarps (fruits).

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to the Chatham and Antipodes islands

HABITAT

Coastal. Found on rock shorelines, boulder and sand beaches, on basalt, limestone and schist outcrops and in coastal turf. Also common amongst driftwood and kelp, and within saltmarshes and seepages near the sea. On the outer islands often found in association with burrowing petrels, and so may on occasion be found within tall forest.



Apium prostratum subsp. *denticulatum*.
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Chatham Islands. Photographer: John Sawyer,
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THREATS

Not Threatened. Listed because it is a local endemic, abundant on all the main Chatham and Antipodes islands.

GENUS

Apium

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Apium prostratum subsp. denticulatum P.S.Short

SYNONYMS

None

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

(July-) October - February

FRUITING

(September-) February (-May)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and rooted pieces. The stems are edible and very pleasant tasting.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ETYMOLOGY

apium: The ancient Latin name for celery or parsley. Believed to be derived from the Celtic word apon 'ditch' and refers to the watery habitat of many species

prostratum: Prostrate

NVS CODE

APIPSD

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson, A. T., Smith, H. A. (1972). Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning. Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/apium-prostratum-subsp-denticulatum/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/apium-prostratum-subsp-denticulatum/>

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