**Azorella macquariensis**

**SYNONYMS**
Azorella selago auctt. non Hook.f.

**FAMILY**
Apiaceae

**AUTHORITY**
Azorella macquariensis Orchard

**FLORA CATEGORY**
Vascular – Native

**ENDEMIC TAXON**
Yes

**ENDEMIC GENUS**
No

**ENDEMIC FAMILY**
No

**STRUCTURAL CLASS**
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

**CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS**
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

**PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS**
2004 | Range Restricted

**DISTRIBUTION**
Endemic to Macquarie Island.

**HABITAT**
The dominant species of the feldmark vegetation community and also common in other windswept situations. Forming dense, extensive cushions and tight mats through which little other vegetation can penetrate.

**FEATURES**
Perennial herb forming extensive compact mats, cushions, or in exposed situations button-like balls; main branches prostrate, woody to 5 mm in diameter; lateral shoots erect, herbaceous, freely branched, crowded, 30-150 mm tall, clothed in old leaf remnants. Leaves alternate, imbricate, appressed to stems, persistent; petioles white 3-10 mm long, thickened at apex, 3-5-veinned, with a membranous wing outside the veins, the wings fused to form a sheath around the stem in the lower 1/4-1/2 and produced above to form a very short runcate ridge-like ligule at the base of the lamina; lamina 3-5-partite, lobes divided almost to base of leaves, lanceolate, 1.7-4 x 0.6-1.4 mm, thick and more or less fleshy, acute with a terminal setose apiculum, margins thickened, glabrous or with 1-5 bristle-like hairs 1.4-4 mm long on the undersides. Flowers terminal, solitary or paired, hermaphrodite, peduncles short with the flowers enclosed by the upper leaves. Involucral bracts 2, fused at the base to form a small cup, leaf-like or lanceolate. Sepals 5, 0.5-0.9 mm long white, linear, unequal. Petals 5, 1.5-2 mm long, pale reddish brown, incurved, somewhat cucullate, acute. Stamens 5, 1.7-3 mm long. Styles 2, 0.75-1 mm long, with a swollen stylodium at the base. Ovary slightly laterally compressed. Fruit yellow-brown, sessile or on a pedicel 1 mm long (so hidden amongst leaves); body of fruit obovoid and slightly flattened laterally 1.3-1.7 x 1-1.5 mm, 0.9-1 mm thick, weakly ribbed, styles persistent, sepals deciduous.
SIMILAR TAXA
Azorella selago Hook.f. which is known from Tierra del Fuego, the Falklands, Marion, Crozet, Kerguelen and Heard Islands but not Macquarie A. macquariensis differs from A. selago by its smaller size and leaf shape. The current seasons leaves are 3-lobed compared to the 4-7-lobed seen in A. selago; in A. macquariensis the lobes are divided almost to the leaf base, the apices are acute and bristle-tipped rather than blunt and rounded as in A. selago. The ligule also differs in A. macquariensis in that it is a short, ridge-like truncate or slightly rounded structure while in A. selago it comprises two distinct, rounded auricles. The flowers of A. macquariensis are solitary or rarely paired rather than in groups of 3, the fruits 1.7 cf. 1.7-2 mm long and are sessile or virtually so, therefore they are hidden in the upper leaves rather than exserted from the leaves as in the distinctly pedicellate A. selago, finally the sepals are deciduous in A. macquariensis and persistent in A. selago.

FLOWERING
December - February

FLOWER COLOURS
Red/Pink, White

FRUITING
January - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Unknown

THREATS
None evident. Endemic to Macquarie Island where it is locally common.

ETYMOLOGY
macquariensis: From Macquarie Island

WHERE TO BUY
Not commercially available

CULTURAL USE/IMPORTANCE
This species is included in the NZPCN Fact Sheets because Macquarie Island is part of the New Zealand Botanical Region. However, Macquarie Island is part of the Australian Territory, and so its administration lies with that nation.

ATTRIBUTION

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION
Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): Azorella macquariensis Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/azorella-macquariensis/ (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION