Gingidia baxterae

COMMON NAMES
Baxter's aniseed

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS
Brown, Orange

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Stout tufted distinctly to weakly glaucous perennial herbs forming small circular patches 100 x 100 mm; bases clean from dead leaf remnants. **Petioles** 10-20 x 0.5-2.0 mm; sheaths 6-10 x 3-7 mm. **Leaves** once pinnate, membranous, 30-100 x 8-30 mm, upper surface distinctly to weakly glaucous under surface green; **leaflets** sessile, 2-10 pairs, each 3-12 x 3-10 mm, simple, or with 1-2 incisions, terminal leaflets similar in size to the lateral leaflets; stomata abundant on both surfaces. **Inflorescences** 50-170 mm long with axes 1.0-1.5 mm diameter below the first node; compound umbels 1-4 per inflorescence; in simple umbels 2-6 per compound umbel; bracts free or partly fused; flowers 5-12 per simple umbel; styles 0.75-2.00 mm long. **Mericarps** (excluding style) 2.5-5.0 mm long, dull light orange-yellow, orange-brown to brown, sometimes tinged purple, vittae dark brown to black-brown; narrowly ovate, ovate to narrowly ovate-oblong; apex narrowed to 2-3 ovate-triangular calyx teeth and usually recurved style remnant; surface broadly convex with 5 equal ribs.



Cultivated ex Rock and Pillar Range.
Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA
Differs from *G. enysii* var. *enysii*and *G. enysii* var. *peninsulare* by the sessile rather than sessile to petiolulate leaflets which are glaucous to weakly so above, and green below, and are simple rather than deeply cut, occasionally bearing one or two incisions, rather than cut by one-third or more to the mid-vein. *Gingidia baxterae* is allopatric from both *G. enysii* varieties.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. **South Island**, north-west Nelson (Gouland Downs), Otago and northern Southland.

HABITAT
Montane to alpine (up to 1300 m a.s.l.). usually on base-rich schist and greywacke facies, and in the Nelson are on limestone and peat overlying limestone. Favouring open herbfield, fell field and stable talus slopes.

GENUS
Gingidia

FAMILY
Apiaceae

AUTHORITY
Gingidia baxterae (J.W.Dawson) C.J.Webb

SYNONYMS
Gingiidium enysii var. baxteri J.W.Dawson, Gingidia enysii var. baxteri J.W.Dawson

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
October - March

FRUITING
November - June

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Winged mericarps are dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Easily grown from fresh seed. Does well in a well drained, sunny situation. Does not tolerate overshadowing and dislikes prolonged humidity or wet poorly draining soils. Responds well to regular applications of lime.

WHERE TO BUY
Not commercially available

ETYMOLOGY
gingidia: A Syrian carrot

NVS CODE
GINBAX

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 22

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp
2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp
2009 | Data Deficient
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Declining | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, NR, NStr, PF, Sp, TL Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Dawson JW. 1967. The New Zealand species of *Gingidium* (Umbelliferae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany 5*: 84-106.
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.
Webb, CJ. 1977. *Gingidia baxteri* and *Gingidia enysii* (Umbelliferae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany 15*: 639-643.

ATTRIBUTION
Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange (21 August 2006). Description based on Dawson (1967) and Webb (1977).

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gingidia-baxterae/

PDF DATE

25 May 2026