

Gingidia decipiens

SYNONYMS

Aciphylla decipiens Benth. et Hook.f., *Ligusticum decipiens* Kirk, *Angelica decipiens* Hook.f.; *Ligusticum petraeum* Cheeseman, *Anisotome petraea* (Cheeseman) Cheeseman, *Gingidium decipiens* (Hook.f.) J.W.Dawson

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Gingidia decipiens (Hook.f.) J.W.Dawson

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

GINDEC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, mainly westerly from Nelson to Fiordland

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine herbfield (up to 1600 m a.s.l.). Rupestral within rock crevices, ledges and within talus slopes and debris slides. Usually found on limestone, marble or granite, or base-rich facies of greywacke.

FEATURES

Stout yellow-green to dark green or glaucescent perennial from compact tufts up to 200 mm wide. Bases surrounded by persistent dead leaf remnants. Plants not rhizomatous. Petioles 10-80 x 0.75-1.5 mm, sheaths 6-20 x 3-7 mm. Leaves once-pinnate, rarely 2-pinnate, sub-fleshy, 40-180 x 5-40 mm yellow-green, dark green to glaucescent; leaflets 5-10 pairs, these 4-24 x 3-16 mm, sessile or shortly petioluled with petiolules up to 5 mm long; mostly pinnatifid or pinnate, rare simple; if pinnatifid or pinnate with two pairs of segments; segments not overlapping, stomata equally abundant on both surfaces. Inflorescences 80-200 mm long with axes 0.75-2.0 mm diameter; compound with umbels 1-3 per inflorescence; simple umbels 5-10 per compound umbel; bracts free; flowers 8-15 per simple umbel; styles 1.5-3.0 mm long. Mericarps (excluding style) 3.2-6.0 mm long, dull or glossy, finely bullate on wings, dark yellow, brown or tinged purple, vittae dark brown, dark red-brown or dark purple-brown; ovate-oblong or ovate; apex rounded or narrowed to 2-3 lanceolate to ovate-triangular calyx teeth and thin twisted style remnant; surface broadly convex with 5 equal ribs, the 2 commissural broadly and evenly winged, or with wings broadening toward base.



Birch Hill stream, Mt Cook. February.
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Countess Range. Photographer: John Barkla

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from all other New Zealand species of *Gingidia* by the usually green to yellow green rather than glaucous leaflets which are < 15 mm long, in 5-10 pairs, mostly pinnatifid to pinnate (rarely simple), with the lower leaflets sessile or on short petiolules up to 5 mm long, usually truncate or obtuse at base. Simple leaflets usually bear 7 or more teeth, while pinnatifid leaflets have 5 or less teeth per proximal segment. More likely to be confused with *Anisotome* Hook.f. from which it is best distinguished by leaflet teeth which are not produced into hairs or bristles, and the obvious aniseed smell of the leaves when crushed.

FLOWERING

October - April

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Yellow

FRUITING

November - June

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed. An excellent and attractive rockery plant. Ideal in a pot. Prefers free draining moist soils. Benefits from regular applications of lime.

ETYMOLOGY

gingidia: A Syrian carrot

decipiens: Deceptive

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 February 2009). Description adapted from Dawson (1974)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Dawson, J.W. 1974: Validation of *Gingidia* (Umbelliferae). *Kew Bulletin* 29: 476-476.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gingidia-decipiens/>