Gingidia decipiens

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS
Brown, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
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.

Countess Range. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

Gingidia decipiens in low alpine rockland, Takititmu Mountains. Photographer: John Barkla, Date taken: 05/01/2020, Licence: CC BY.

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 leafllets have 5 or less teeth per proximal segment. More likely to be confused with *Anisotome* 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.

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.

GENUS
Gingidia

FAMILY
Apiaceae

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

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

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
October - April

FRUITING
November - June

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
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

NVS CODE
GINDEC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 22

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened 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. 1974. Validation of Gingidia (Umbelliferae). *Kew Bulletin 29*: 476-476.
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.

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

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25 May 2026