Gingidia enysii var. enysii

COMMON NAMES
limestone aniseed

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: CD, RR
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS
Brown, Orange

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Stout tufted 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 rarely 2-pinnate, fleshy, 30-100 x 8-30 mm, distinctly glaucous on both surfaces; **leaflets** 2-10 pairs, each 3-12 x 3-10 mm, simple, pinnatifid or pinnate with one to two (or more) segments, segments overlapping cut at less than or equal to one-third of the way to the mid-vein, terminal leaflets similar in size to the lateral leaflets; stomata abundant on both surfaces, leaflets sessile or with short petiolules. **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.

Gingidia enysi. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

Castle Hill Basin. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 01/11/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

SIMILAR TAXA
Differs from *Gingidia enysii* var. *peninsulare* by the leaflet segments, which are cut at no more than one-third of the way to the mid-vein. In all other respects both taxa are similar. Both taxa are allopatric, with *G. enysii* var. *peninsulare* being confined to igneous rocks on Banks Peninsula.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. **South Island**, and as interpreted here to Castle Hill, Flock Hill, Prebble Hill, Cave Stream and Broken River.

HABITAT
Limestone outcrops and associated talus slopes within montane habitats (up to 700 m a.s.l.). Usually in open, sparsely vegetated sites. Often on the tops of solution karren or shallow depressions on the tops of rock stacks and towers.

THREATS
As interpreted here, *G. enysii* var. *enysii* is threatened because its habitats are being over-run by aggressive weeds such as *Festuca rubra*, *Hieracium* spp., *Pilosella officinarum* and *Dactylis glomerata* L.

GENUS
Gingidia

FAMILY
Apiaceae

AUTHORITY
Gingidia enysii (Kirk) J.W.Dawson var. enysii

SYNONYMS
Ligusticum enysii Kirk, Anisotome enysii (Kirk) Laing, Gingidium enysii (Kirk) J.W.Dawson var. enysii, Gingidium enysii var. spathulatum J.W.Dawson, Gingidia enysii var. spathulatum J.W.Dawson

TAXONOMIC NOTES
Research into the *G. enysii* complex by Dr(s) B.P.J. Molloy and R. Gardner (University of Auckland) supports the concepts of Dawson (1967) rather than Webb (1977). However, their research (based on morphology supplemented by rDNA ITS data) also suggests that other populations from the Kaikoura Ranges, North and South Canterbury, and northern Otago are not *G. enysii* but allied, as yet unnamed (or apparently unnamed) species. The Banks Peninsula endemic *Gingidia enysii* var. *peninsulare* J.W.Dawson is also distinct from *G. enysii* var. *enysii,* though at a much lower level than the other populations investigated.

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
October - January

FRUITING
November - May

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.

ETYMOLOGY
gingidia: A Syrian carrot
enysii: Named in honour of John Davies Enys (1837-1912), a Cornish geologist, biologist and farmer, who owned Castle Hill Station in Canterbury from 1867 to 1891.

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 22

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: Dp, RR
2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP
2004 | Range Restricted
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Otago: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Endangered | Qualifiers: DPT, Sp, NR 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*: pp. 285-309.
Webb CJ. 1977. *Gingidia baxteri* and *Gingidia enysii* (Umbelliferae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* *15*: pp. 639-643.

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet by P.J. de Lange (21 August 2006). Description based on Dawson (1967).

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026