Gingidia grisea

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

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

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS
Red/Pink, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Tap-rooted, stout, glabrous, gynodioecious perennial grey-green, glaucous herb. Leaves 3-5 per rosette, imparipinnate, subcoriaceous, grey-green. **Petiole** 70-300 mm long, sheath with marginal wings. **Leaflets** 4-7 pairs, often overlapping, sessile, 10-50 x 55 mm, smaller distally, orbicular to rhomboid, grey-green with dense glaucous bloom on both surfaces, margin rounded in distal part with 12-24, deeply cut or crenate teeth, base cuneate, obtuse, or truncate, and entire. **Cauline leaves** 12-60 mm long, grey-green, sheath 11-18 x 5-5.75 mm, leaflets in 1-4 pairs, similar to rosette leaves; upper cauline leaves reduced in size, linear, entire or toothed. **Inflorescence**, compound umbel peduncle 27-87 mm long, with 7-28 simple umbels; umbels subtended by 4-6 primary, broad-elliptic narrowly acuminate bracts. Female flowers 1.5-3.5 mm long, male and hermaphrodite flowers 2.6-4.2 mm long. Petals white flushed pink. **Mericarps** 3.9-4.1 x 0.9-1 mm, ovate to ovate-elliptic, brown.

In cultivation. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

Macraes Flat, Otago. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 28/04/2012, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA
Morphologically closest to *G. montana* from which it differs by the distinctive grey-green leaves, dense glaucous bloom on both leaf surfaces, and by the secondary bracts which are broad-elliptic and long-acuminate. Unlike *G. montana* the inflorescences are often hidden within the rosette leaves, particularly so with female specimens.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. **South Island**, north-eastern Otago, 15 populations known from near the Millhouse (Herbert) south to Mt Watkin (Waikouaiti), east to Macraes Flat and then west to Shag and Moeraki Points.

HABITAT
Now virtually confined to cliff and talus slopes on base-rich igneous (basalt lava, breccia), metamorphic (schist) and sedimentary (calcareous sandstone, siltstone, mudstone and calcareous basaltic breccia and agglomerate) rocks. Within these cliff and talus habitats it grows in open sites with minimal cover.

THREATS
At risk from habitat loss following displacement by weeds such as boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum* Miers), spur valerian (*Centranthus ruber* (L.) DC.), gorse (*Ulex europaeus* L.) and broom (*Cytisus scoparius* (L.) Link). Goats and other browsing animals are a risk at most sites. This species has already declined or been lost from a number of sites where it had been common 20 or so years ago. Previously regarded (as *Gingidia* aff. *montana* (b) (CHR 103349; North Otago)) as Nationally Vulnerable in de Lange et al. (2004).

GENUS
Gingidia

FAMILY
Apiaceae

AUTHORITY
Gingidia grisea Heenan

SYNONYMS
None

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
November - January

FRUITING
December - April

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Grows readily from fresh seed, and does well in a free-draining, fertile soil within a sunny, exposed situation. Dislikes humidity.

ETYMOLOGY
gingidia: A Syrian carrot
grisea: Pearl-grey

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 22

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

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Declining | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, NStr, PF, RE, RR, 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
de Lange *et al*. 2004. Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand, *New Zealand Journal of Botany 42*: 45-76.
Heenan PB. 2004. *Gingidia grisea* (Apiaceae), a new species from north-east Otago, South Island, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany 42*: 175-180.
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 2005). Description adapted from Heenan (2004)

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026