

Gingidia montana

COMMON NAMES

mountain aniseed, New Zealand aniseed

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, PF

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout to somewhat laxly erect, non-rhizomatous, dark green, glaucescent, perennial herb. Bases usually bearing numerous leaf remnants, sometimes bare. **Petioles** 70–380 x 2.5–6.0 mm, fleshy, glaucescent; sheaths 30–95 x 7–20 mm. **Leaves** once pinnate, coriaceous to sub-fleshy, 150–800 x 30–150 mm, upper surface dark green, glaucescent, undersides usually paler, glaucous; **leaflets** 5–10 pairs, 15–80 x 15–65 mm, sessile, ovate-oblong to rhomboid, acute to obtuse, very rarely incised (incisions cut almost to midvein), stomata restricted to lower surface, margins serrate or crenate. **Inflorescences** 250–800 mm long with axes 35–80 mm in diameter; compound umbels 2–4 per inflorescence; simple umbels 5–25 per compound umbel; bracts free lanceolate, subacute to obtuse; flowers 15–30 per simple umbel; styles 1.5–3.5 mm long. **Mericarps** (excluding style) 4–8 mm long, dull or semi-glossy, finely bullate, especially on wings, dark brown, dark yellow, brown sometimes tinged purple, vittae dark red-brown or dark purple-brown; ovate to ovate-elliptic or broadly ovate; apex narrowed to 2–3 ovate-triangular calyx teeth and thin, often recurved style remnant; surface broad convex with 5 ribs, the 2 commissural broadly and more or less evenly winged, or with wings broadening toward base.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily distinguished from all the other New Zealand species of *Gingidia* (except *G. grisea*) by the stout erect habit, and larger leaves (up to 900 mm long) and leaflets (up to 80 mm long). In the past *G. grisea* has been confused with *G. montana*. *Gingidia grisea* differs from *G. montana* by the distinctive uniformly grey-green leaves, dense glaucous bloom on both leaf surfaces, and by the secondary bracts which are broad-elliptic and long-acuminate rather than lanceolate, subacute to obtuse. Unlike *G. montana* the inflorescences are often hidden within the rosette leaves, particularly so with female specimens. Preliminary analyses using rDNA ITS sequences suggest that *G. grisea* is more closely allied to *G. trifoliolata* than it is to *G. montana*.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: **North** and **South Islands**. In the North Island now extremely scarce but formerly said to have occurred from about Kawhia and the southern Hawke's Bay south to the Wairarapa. It is rarely seen now in this area. In the South Island widespread throughout the island.



Limestone bluffs, NW of Whernside, Nidd Stream. Photographer: Simon Moore, Licence: CC BY-SA.



Greenstone Valley. Photographer: John Barkla, Date taken: 01/03/2013, Licence: CC BY.

HABITAT

Lowland to subalpine (up to 1300 m.a.s.l.). Formerly widespread in open grassland, shrubland and along river banks now largely confined to cliffs, rock outcrops and seepages above roadsides - in places largely free from or completely free of browsing animals.

THREATS

Not Threatened. However, it is now extinct over most of its North Island range and it has declined from much of the South Island. Being highly palatable it is now often confined to inaccessible sites or locations free from browsing animals. This species may well yet qualify as Declining.

GENUS

Gingidia

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Gingidia montana (J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.) J.W.Dawson

SYNONYMS

Gingidium montanum J.R.Forst. et G.Forst., Ligusticum gingidium G.Forst., Anisotome gingidium Hook.f., Angelica gingidium Hook.f., Angelica montana (J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.) Cockayne

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Heenan et al. (2013) have shown that *Gingidia montana* is endemic to New Zealand. Australian plants referred to this species have been segregated from it as a new endemic *G. rupicola* I.Telford et. J.J.Bruhl. In New Zealand, two new species *G. amphistoma* Heenan and *G. haematitica* Heenan have also been segregated from *G. montana*.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

August - May

FRUITING

October - June

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown. Probably the most widely grown and easily cultivated species. It tolerates humidity and does well in full sun or shade, though it prefers a fertile, well drained, moist soil.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for November 2012](#) for the full story.

ETYMOLOGY

gingidia: A Syrian carrot

montana: From the Latin mons 'mountain', meaning growing on mountains

NVS CODE

GINMON

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Declining | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, NStr, Sp 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

Heenan PB, Telford IRH, Bruhl JJ. Three new species of *Gingidia* (Apiaceae: Apioideae) from Australia and New Zealand. *Australian Systematic Botany* 26: 196–209

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

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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25 May 2026