Gingidia trifoliolata

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

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

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS
White

Gingidia trifoliolata, Wairau Valley. Photographer: John Barkla, Date taken: 03/12/2014, Licence: CC BY.

Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 02/02/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Glaucous usually solitary herb up to 450 mm tall. All parts smelling faintly of aniseed when bruised or crushed. Taproot stout, 20-80 x 10-15 mm, usually solitary, sometimes multiciple and plants spreading by short rhizomes or stolons. Stems stout, short, basally invested by leaf-remains. Leaves clustered toward base, somewhat flaccid. **Petioles** slender, up to 100 mm long, expanded at base and sheathing, otherwise tapering toward leaves. **Leaves** 3-foliolate or pinnate; pinnae 3-5(-7), rather distant, **leaflets** usually with 2-3-divisions or entire; petiolules up to 20 mm long. **Lamina** 10-12 x 10-17 mm, firmly fleshy to membranous, yellow-green to pale whitish glaucous above, dark glaucous below, rhomboid to suborbicular, cuneatly narrowed to base or truncate; margins crenulate-denticulate especially towards apex, sometimes entire. Umbels compound, delicate and small, borne on stout to slender often somewhat flaccid peduncles 100-200 mm long, subtended by 1or more leaves these deeply 3-5-lobed. Praimary rays 2-3, unequal, up to 50 mm long, bracts narrow-lanceolate; secondary rays 3-5, stout, bracts minute, linear. Calyx-teeth minute, petals white; styles delicate and slender, spreading, persistent. **Fruits** 6.5 mm long; mericarps compressed, with a pair of broad lateral wings; dorsal ribs conspicuous. Vittae 1 per furrow, 2 on commissural face.

SIMILAR TAXA
Most similar to *G. montana* from which it differs by its much smaller size, fewer, and more flaccid leaves which have 3-7-leaflets rather than 11-30 petiolulate (rather than sessile) leaflets.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. **South Island** from the southern and eastern Marlborough Ranges and Lake Tennyson to Canterbury

HABITAT
Montane to subalpine (> 900 m a.s.l.). Usually found in or under scrub (chiefly grey-scrub) on river terraces, colluvium, steep slopes, alluvial fans, talus slopes and in and around cliff faces and their associated boulder falls. Sometimes in wetlands.

THREATS
Not believed to be threatened but it is undoubtedly eaten where plants are accessible to browsing animals. Apparently always rather localised and never common at any particular place, this species seems to have its strong hold from southern Marlborough to Central Canterbury. As it is usually found as small, widely scattered, somewhat diffuse populations it may also have suffered from being overlooked during past botanical surveys.

GENUS
Gingidia

FAMILY
Apiaceae

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

SYNONYMS
Ligusticum trifoliolatum Hook.f., Angelica trifoliolata (Hook.f.) Cockayne, Anisotome enysii var. tennysonianum Laing,

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
November - January

FRUITING
December - February

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Difficult - should not be removed from the wild

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
FAC: Facultative
Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY
gingidia: A Syrian carrot
trifoliolata: With three leaflets

NVS CODE
GINTRI

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 22

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

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
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.

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): Gingidia trifoliolata Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gingidia-trifoliolata/ (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026