

Scandia geniculata

COMMON NAME

scandia

SYNONYMS

Peucedanum geniculatum G.Forst., Angelica geniculata (G.Forst.) Hook.f., Anisotome geniculata (G.Forst.) Hook.f., Gingidia geniculata

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Scandia geniculata (G.Forst.) J.W.Dawson

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

SCAGEN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

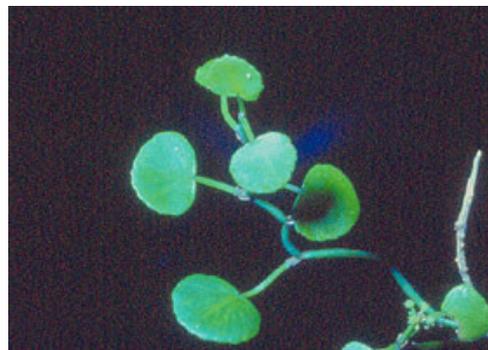
2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands. In the North Island from Kapiti Island and Paekakariki south and east to about Tora, in the South Island from Marlborough to southern Otago.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane in rock strewn ground, at the base of talus slopes, on cliff faces, rock ledges and along river gorges, within tall and short tussock grassland and growing up through or intermixed with shrubs in grey scrub communities.



Scandia geniculata showing adult foliage, Hawkins hill, Wellington. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Scandia geniculata flowering umbels and adult foliage, Hawkins hill, Wellington. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Long creeping, lianoid, woody to subwoody, aromatic perennial shrub forming interwoven, tangled masses up to 3 x 3 m (especially when sprawling through other shrubs). Branches few, somewhat wiry and pliant, grooved, yellow green to glaucous green. Leaves alternate, juveniles and reversion shoots 1-3-foliolate, adult leaves 3-lobed or simple; petioles up to 10 mm long, often twisted, flexuous; basal sheaths broad, either side furnished with 2 blunt lobes; leaflets up to 12 mm diameter, dark green, yellow-green or glaucous green above, glaucous below, orbicular, rhomboid to reniform, truncate to cordate at base, crenulate to subentire, subcoriaceous. Umbels axillary and terminal, compound up to 10 mm diameter, on peduncles up to 20 mm long; rays 2-6, 5-9 mm long, slender. Calyx-teth minute; petals white, flexed at apices. Mericarps 4.5-7.5 mm long, semi-glossy, pale orange-yellow, brown, dark yellow or orange, oblong or oblong-elliptic, apex rounded and flattened, style remnant twisted or recurve, base cordate, ribs 5, the 2 commissural broadly and evenly winged.

SIMILAR TAXA

None. The remarkable lianoid growth habit is unique to this species, while the simple or 3-lobed, orbicular to reniform dark green, yellow-green to glaucous green leaves, and flexuose twisted petioles immediately distinguish this plant from any other apiaceous plants present in New Zealand.

FLOWERING

October - July

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

December - June

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed. An attractive and unusual scrambling scrub that makes an excellent hanging basket plant and ground cover for a free draining, sunny site. It dislikes humidity and excessive moisture.

ETYMOLOGY

geniculata: From the Latin geniculum 'knee', meaning 'on bended knee', often used in reference to plants with stems bent on an angle

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 August 2004). Description based on Allan (1961 - as *Angelica geniculata*) and Dawson (1967)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

Dawson, J. W. 1967: New Zealand Umbelliferae. *Lignocarpa* gen. nov. and *Scandia* gen. nov. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 5: 400-417.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/scandia-geniculata/>