

Scandia rosifolia

COMMON NAME

koheriki

SYNONYMS

Angelica rosaefolia Hook., *Anisotome rosaefolia* (Hook.) Hook.f.

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Scandia rosifolia (Hook.) 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

SCAROS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

2009 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, from the Three Kings south to Taranaki in the west and the southern Ruahine Ranges in the east.

HABITAT

Coastal to subalpine (0-1400 m a.s.l.). Usually on cliff faces, clay banks or amongst boulders, often found along cliffs lining river gorges, more rarely in scrub.



At Pinnacle Rock Track, Coromandel.
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Kennedy Bay. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

FEATURES

Semi-erect to somewhat openly sprawling, woody, aromatic shrub up to 1 x 1 m. Stems much-branched, woody at base, dark green to yellow green when young, maturing orange-brown; at first ascending soon spreading, rarely scrambling and rooting from nodes. Leaves alternate, pinnate; petioles 5-20 (or more) mm long, subcoriaceous, slender, sheathing base broadly 2 lobed; leaflets 2-5(-8) pairs, 25-80 x 10-40 mm, dark green, glossy above, paler and dull below, subsessile to sessile, obliquely ovate, ovate-lanceolate to narrowly lanceolate, acute to acuminate, margins finely to deeply serrated; each leaflet subtended by a narrow, fleshy pair of stipules. Inflorescences umbellate. Umbels numerous, compound, axillary and terminal, on slender peduncles up to 30 mm long, umbels up to 800 mm diameter (usually much less). Primary rays numerous, slender up to 30 mm long; secondary rays shorter, umbellules densely flowered. Flowers white. Calyx teeth narrow-triangular. Mericarps 3-4.5 mm long, yellowish buff to pale orange-yellow, dark yellow or orange, ovate to broadly ovate, oblong to broadly oblong to broadly elliptic or circular, surface semi-glossy, finely bullate or reticulate, ribs 5, the two commissural broadly and evenly winged or more broadly winged toward the base; style remnant erect and straight.

SIMILAR TAXA

Within the indigenous New Zealand Apiaceae this species is extremely distinctive, it could not be confused with any other species. The presence of the interfoliar stipules are particularly distinctive - they are not known from any other apiaceous plant present in New Zealand.

FLOWERING

September - June

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

November - August

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and semi-hardwood cuttings. This is a beautiful small shrub for a sunny situation. Plants can tolerate a range of conditions but flourish best in free draining, fertile soils. Makes an excellent pot or container plant. The leathery leaves are rather strongly flavoured but make an interesting addition to a summer salad if eaten before they are fully mature.

THREATS

This species is extremely palatable and it is greedily consumed wherever plants are accessible to browsing animals. It is evident that the current conservation assessment of At Risk/Sparse while possibly biologically accurate is no longer appropriate. This species has declined from significant parts of its range, and while it is still at times locally common, in many locations it is now represented by only small scattered populations or even single plants. The largest populations reflect the situation, they are cliff bound in sites inaccessible to all browsing animals, even possums.

ETYMOLOGY

rosifolia: Rose-leafed

FIELD NOTES

Two forms are evident in the field. One has broader, rounder leaves and is strictly coastal, the other has narrower lanceolate leaves and is usually found inland on cliff faces (often on limestone or calcareous rocks) or along river gorges. There are other subtle differences as well. However, around the Hicks Bay East Cape area both forms meet and intergrade. Further study is needed.

ATTRIBUTION

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

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MORE INFORMATION

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