

# Aciphylla montana var. montana

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

Orange, Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rosettes 25 or more, each up to 250 mm diameter. Leaves coriaceous, yellow-green, up to 300 mm long, with 3(-4) leaflets, usually in one plane; sheath 80 x 5-15 mm, sheath joint obscure; stipules up to 70 x 1 mm, shorter than to almost as long as the petiole; petiole up to 90 x 3 mm, more or less convex above, margins rounded, pulvinus evident, up to 12 mm long, lamina more or less obtriangular in outline, lowermost leaflet up to 130 x 2.5-4 mm, apex acute, spine 2 mm long, midrib obscure, marginrib 0.2 mm wide, veins not raised. Inflorescences narrow. Female inflorescence up to 600 mm long, with a stem 490 x 11 mm, yellow-orange; head 140 x 30 mm, more or less lanceolate in outline; compound umbels 20-25, arranged in 5-7 whorls, the terminal umbel smaller than the lower laterals; lower bracts 80 mm long, with a sheath up to 35 x 9 mm, stipules and 1-2 pairs of leaflets; upper bracts smaller and simple with stipules. Lower compound umbels up to 35 mm long with peduncles up to 20 x 2 mm, occasionally sessile, primary bracteoles minute, simple umbels up to 6 with peduncles up to 12 x 0.7 mm, the innermost umbels sessile; secondary bracteoles simple, 7 x 1 mm; up to 15 flowers per umbel, pedicels up to 2.5 x 0.2 mm. Sepals up to 0.3 mm; petals up to 1 x 0.5 mm, not inflexed; staminodes up to 0.5 mm long. Male inflorescences up to 520 mm, stem 270 x 12 mm, yellow-orange; head 260 x 80 mm, lanceolate in outline; compound umbels up to 38, in 5-7 whorls, the terminal umbel smaller than the lower laterals; bracts similar to those of the female; lower compound umbels up to 80 mm long, usually as a whorl of 2 simple umbels on the peduncles, this up to 70 x 2 mm; up to 13 simple umbels with peduncles 12 x 0.4 mm, bearing up to 15 flowers per umbel, pedicels 2 x 0.1 mm. Sepals 0.3 mm; petals 1.2 x 0.8 mm, not inflexed; stamens up to 2 mm long. Mericarps 4.5 x 0.5 mm, dull pale brown, lateral ribs < 0.5 mm wide; style up to 1.2 mm.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Aciphylla montana* var. *gracilis* (W.R.B.Oliv.) J.W.Dawson is very similar (if not conspecific) it differs chiefly by its smaller stature, with plants forming rosettes of 5 or less (rather than 25 or more), leaves up to 230 rather than 300 mm long, and by the female inflorescences being up to 400 rather than 600 mm tall. In *A. montana* var. *montana* there are usually 3 but sometimes 4 leaflet pairs, in var. *gracilis* there are usually 2 pairs of leaflets.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, central southern Alps and east of the main divide from Mt Hutt to Mt Cardrona.

## HABITAT

Alpine (1400-2000 m a.s.l.) in tall tussock grassland, sometimes on or near rock outcrops or near the bases of stabilised scree slopes.



Mt Hutt, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



East Ahuriri. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## DETAILED TAXONOMY

### FAMILY

Apiaceae

### AUTHORITY

*Aciphylla montana* J.F.Armstrong var. *montana*

### SYNONYMS

None

### ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

### ENDEMIC GENUS

No

### ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

### ECOLOGY

### FLOWERING

December - March

### FRUITING

February to May

### LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - requires specialist curation within an alpine house or in pots. Best in a climate prone to very cold winters and dry but cool summers. Requires free draining soils and full sun, in a moderately fertile substrate. Resents humidity and will not flower unless subject to cold treatment.

### OTHER INFORMATION

### ETYMOLOGY

**aciphylla**: From the Latin *acicula* 'needle' and the Greek *phyllum* 'leaf', meaning needle-leaf.

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

### NVS CODE

ACIMVM

### 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: 2024 | At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NR, NS, NStr, Sp

### REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Dawson, J. W. 1979: *Aciphylla montana* Armstrong, *A. lecomtei* sp. nov., and related species. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 17: 339-351.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 28 May 2006: Description adapted from Dawson (1979).

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Aciphylla montana* var. *montana* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/aciphylla-montana-var-montana/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

11 March 2025