

Gingidia grisea

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Gingidia grisea Heenan

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, north-eastern Otago, 15 populations known from near the Millhouse (Herbert) south to Mt Watkin (Waikouaiti), east to Macraes Flat and then west to Shag and Moeraki Points.

HABITAT

Now virtually confined to cliff and talus slopes on base-rich igneous (basalt lava, breccia), metamorphic (schist) and sedimentary (calcareous sandstone, siltstone, mudstone and calcareous basaltic breccia and agglomerate) rocks. Within these cliff and talus habitats it grows in open sites with minimal cover.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tap-rooted, stout, glabrous, gynodioecious perennial grey-green, glaucous herb. Leaves 3-5 per rosette, imparipinnate, subcoriaceous, grey-green. Petiole 70-300 mm long, sheath with marginal wings. Leaflets 4-7 pairs, often overlapping, sessile, 10-50 x 55 mm, smaller distally, orbicular to rhomboid, grey-green with dense glaucous bloom on both surfaces, margin rounded in distal part with 12-24, deeply cut or crenate teeth, base cuneate, obtuse, or truncate, and entire. Cauline leaves 12-60 mm long, grey-green, sheath 11-18 x 5-5.75 mm, leaflets in 1-4 pairs, similar to rosette leaves; upper cauline leaves reduced in size, linear, entire or toothed. Compound umbel peduncle 27-87 mm long, with 7-28 simple umbels; umbels subtended by 4-6 primary, broad-elliptic narrowly acuminate bracts. Female flowers 1.5-3.5 mm long, male and hermaphrodite flowers 2.6-4.2 mm long. Petals white flushed pink. Mericarps 3.9-4.1 x 0.9-1 mm, ovate to ovate-elliptic, brown.



Gingidia grisea. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Gingidia grisea in full flower (cultivated plant). Photographer: Peter B. Heenan, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Morphologically closest to *G. montana* (J.R.Forst et G.Forst.) J.W.Dawson, from which it differs by the distinctive grey-green leaves, dense glaucous bloom on both leaf surfaces, and by the secondary bracts which are broad-elliptic and long-acuminate. Unlike *G. montana* the inflorescences are often hidden within the rosette leaves, particularly so with female specimens.

FLOWERING

November - January

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

December - April

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Grows readily from fresh seed, and does well in a free-draining, fertile soil within a sunny, exposed situation. Dislikes humidity.

THREATS

At risk from habitat loss following displacement by weeds such as boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum* Miers), spur valerian (*Centranthus ruber* (L.) DC.), gorse (*Ulex europaeus* L.) and broom (*Cytisus scoparius* (L.) Link). Goats and other browsing animals are a risk at most sites. This species has already declined or been lost from a number of sites where it had been common 20 or so years ago. Previously regarded (as *Gingidia* aff. *montana* (b) (CHR 103349; North Otago)) as Nationally Vulnerable in de Lange et al. (2004).

ETYMOLOGY

gingidia: A Syrian carrot

grisea: Pearl-grey

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 February 2005). Description adapted from Heenan (2004)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange et al., 2004, Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand, *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 45-76.

Heenan, P. B. 2004: *Gingidia grisea* (Apiaceae), a new species from north-east Otago, South Island, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 175-180.

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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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