



Acaena rorida

Common Name(s):

none known

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Critical

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island. North West Ruahine Range, where it is only known from ravines draining the Mangaohane Plateau and from the nearby Makirikiri Tarns.

Habitat:

Damp hollows within tussock grassland, and associated limestone ravines.

Features*:

Stoloniferous, prostrate, perennial herb, forming dense patches. Prostrate stems c.70-250 mm long, rooting at nodes, erect stems 3-15 x 0.7 mm, brown, sparsely hairy. Leaves imparipinnate, 1-2(-5) x 5-12 mm. Stipules 2-4 mm long, margins and tips hairy, free portion 1 mm long, entire or bifid, acuminate, Leaflets 4-5, reducing in size toward base, suborbicular, 2-7 x 2-5 mm, truncate at apex; upper surface dull, pale olive, apple green or pinkish-purple, glabrous, veins distinct; lower surface paler, subglaucous; veins with appressed hairs; teeth 7-11, brown. Scapes 6-15 mm long at flowering, on short shoots hidden in foliage, densely hairy, scape bract 0 or 1, leaf-like. Capitulum 4-5 mm diam., 10 mm diam (including spines) at fruiting; florets c.10-12; sepals 4, stamens 2; styles 2; both white. Fruit 1.5 x 1.5 mm. Achenes 2, enclosed within turbinate, red-brown, 4-ribbed, hypanthium. Spines 0 or 1, 1-10(-15) mm long, pale red, tapered to naked tip.

Flowering:

Although exact flowering times are not known, plants have been seen in flower in April.

Fruiting:

Although exact fruiting times are unknown plants have been seen in fruit in April.

Threats:

Weed invasion by *Pilosella* spp., *Agrostis* spp. and hybridisation with *Acaena anserinifolia*.

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 October 2003. Description adapted from MacMillan (1991).

References and further reading:

Macmillan, B.H. 1991: *Acaena rorida* and *Acaena tesca* (Rosaceae) — two new species from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 29: 131-138

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* 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1



Caption: Habitat. Ruahine Corner.
Photographer: Vivienne McGlynn



Caption: Ruahine Corner.
Photographer: Vivienne McGlynn