



## *Acaena emittens*

### Common Name(s):

Bidibid, piripiri

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (eastern Tongariro National Park, southern Kaimanawa Mountains, Kaweka Range, Taruarau River, Otupae Range, north-west Ruahine Range)

### Habitat:

A species of relatively open montane Nothofagus forest and scrub especially that dominated by kahikatoa (*Leptospermum scoparium* J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.), and in open disturbed sites near the bush line.

### Features\*:

Slender suffruticose perennial with dark brown subterranean stems < 2 mm diam. Branches prostrate and < 500 mm long or erect and < 50 mm long, c.0.7 mm diameter, brown, hirsute, epidermis flaking with age; internodes < 35 mm long on prostrate stems. Leaves hairy; stipules 2-6 mm long, margins, tips and undersides hairy, free portion linear, entire or bifid, < sheath; leaflets 3 or 4 pairs, the distal leaflet and 2 upper pairs obovate to suborbicular in outline, truncate at apex, shallowly cuneate at base, 2-10 × 2-6 mm; upper surface dull green, glabrous, smooth, with secondary venation indistinct; lower surface pale, glaucescent, the veins with appressed hairs; teeth 7-9 with margins thickened and recurved, hydathodes pink. Basal leaflet pairs less than 1/2 the size of the penultimate pair, or linear and smaller than stipule lobes. Hairs simple, unicellular, < 1.5 mm long, on stipules, rachis and leaflets. Scapes terminal on short shoots, 40-130 mm long at flowering, hardly elongating as fruit matures, c.0.5 mm diameter, moderately hairy, pale brown. Scape bract linear or foliose, occasionally subtending a single floret. Capitulum 4-6 mm diameter at flowering, 10-15 mm diameter (including spines) at fruiting. Bracteoles on receptacle linear, c. 3 mm long, with hairy margins. Florets c. 40-50, minutely stipitate. Hypanthium c.1 mm long, enclosing perigynous ovary, densely hairy, bearing 4 barbed spines which reach above the hypanthium rim. Sepals 4, arising from hypanthium rim, shortly joined at base, c. 1.5 mm long, elliptic, narrowed and thickened at tip, sparsely hairy on underside. Petals 0. Stamens 2; filaments unequal, up to 2 mm long; anthers 0.3 x 0.5 mm, white. Style 1, 1.5 mm long, including white, fimbriate stigma 0.6 mm broad and protruding from aperture of hypanthium. Fruit indehiscent with a single achene enclosed in the hypanthium, obconic, c.2.0 × 1.2 mm, brown, moderately hairy, 4-ribbed; spines 1 per rib, slender, 4-6 mm long, pale rose or brown, bearing a single rank of translucent, retrorse barbs at tip.

### Flowering:

December – February

### Fruiting:

January – May

### Threats:

A Naturally Uncommon endemic of the Central North Island. Although it is not known to be threatened it is not generally that common either

### \*Attribution:

Description from Macmillan (1989).

### References and further reading:

Macmillan, B.H. 1989: *Acaena juvenca* and *Acaena emittens* (Rosaceae) - two new species from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 27: 109-117.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1439](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1439)



**Caption:** *Acaena emittens*

**Photographer:** Nick Singers



**Caption:** *Acaena emittens*

**Photographer:** Nick Singers