



Apium prostratum subsp. *prostratum* var. *filiforme*

Common Name(s):

New Zealand celery

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. In New Zealand known from the Kermadec, Three Kings, North, South, Stewart and Antipodes Islands. Also in eastern Australia as far north as Brisbane and along the whole coastline of southern Australia and Tasmania

Habitat:

Coastal and lowland. Very rarely montane. Common on rock ledges, boulder falls, cliff faces, within petrel scrub on damp seepages, in peaty turf, saltmarshes, within estuaries on mud banks, around brackish ponds, and lagoons. Also found in freshwater systems such as around lake and tarn sides, along streams and rivers and in wet hollows occasionally well inland, and sometimes at considerable elevations.

Features:

Perennial, glabrous, prostrate herb. Stems prostrate, sprawling, often ascending though surrounding vegetation, not rooting at nodes; 0.3-1.2 m long, up to 6 mm diam. Leaves dark green to yellow green, basal ones on long, slender petioles up to 500 mm (usually much less); pinnately 3-foliolate to 1-2-pinnate; segments ovate, obovate to cuneate, deeply incised and toothed; Leaves opposite compound umbels similar though with leaflets divided, elliptic, ovate, obovate or more or less cuneate, primary segments elliptic, ovate, obovate, or more or less cuneate in outline, with overall length 0.5-3x the greatest breadth, ultimate segments to tertiary order 8-74 per leaf. Inflorescences in compound umbels, sessile or pedunculate; peduncle usually present. 2-20 mm x 1-3 mm, usually ebracteate, sometimes one present present, this usually shedding early in umbel maturation. Rays 10-20, 0.4-8 mm long. Petals off-white to cream, with yellow-brown mid vein, ovate 0.75-1.5 x 0.5-1.0 mm, constricted at base, apex acute. Stamens about length of petals, filaments pale yellow to cream; anthers whitre or pale yellow, 0.3-0.4 x 0.3-0.4 mm. Ovary glabrous, stylopodium disciform; style 0.25-0.40 mm. Mericarps (1.5-)2.0-2.7 mm long, ovate to ovate-oblong, apex narrowed to persistent withered calyx teeth and style remnant, base broad and rounded to weakly cordate; ribs prominent, broad, rounded and spongy. Surface dull yellow to pale brown.

Flowering:

August - March

Fruiting:

September - July

Threats:

Not Threatened

References and further reading:

Johnson, A. T., Smith, H. A. (1972). *Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning.* Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

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=2051



Caption: Kennedy Bay

Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft



Caption: Meurky Walk

Photographer: Melissa Hutchison