Aciphylla multisecta

Common Name(s):

None known

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, from central Canterbury and Westland south to Fiordland

Habitat:

High altitude alpine (> 1300 m a.s.l.) on rock ledges, cliff faces and in or around seepages, or below snow melts.

Features*:

Short, tufted herb forming patches up to 250 x 400 mm. Rootstock simple or branched. Leaves 60-100 mm, rigid, 3-pinnatisect. Sheath up to 50 x 25 mm, deeply ribbed; margins membranous. Stipules 30-50 mm long, 1-2(-3)-pinnate, tapering, on short to very short ligules, pungent. Petioles up to 150 mm long, rather stout and rigid, concavo-convex; margins thickened. Internodes 15 mm long. Primary pinnae 4-8 pairs; secondary 2-4 pairs; tertiary rather slender, almost filiform, 20-40 x 1 mm, apex pungent. Stems of female plants stout, 30 mm long, with inflorescence up to 150 mm long. bract-sheaths chartaceous, c. 40 x 10 mm, including short ligule; stipules acicular, up to 10 mm long; lamina 2-3-pinnate, 40 mm long, on petioles up to 10 mm long. Umbels numerous, forming a dense globose panicle 60-100 mm diameter. Primary rays up to 40 x 1 mm, grooved. Umbellules numerous, up to 30 mm diameter, on rather slender rays. Fruit c.3 mm long, narrow; mericarps 4-5-winged.

Caption: Gertrude Valley
Photographer: John Barkla

Caption: leaf detail, Wapiti River catchment, Central Fiordland, 1200m asl
Photographer: Rowan Hindmarsh-Walls

Flowering:

November - December

Fruiting:

November - January

Threats:

Unlikely to be threatened. However it is known from very few collections and does not seem to be that common where it has been found. Partly this perception may be due to the fact that it favours high altitude cliff habitats that are not frequented by botanists but it does seem to be scarce and sparsely distributed over large parts of apparently suitable habitat, and this appears to be a naturally rather than induced pattern.

***Attribution:**

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 February 2004. Description adapted from Allan (1961).

References and further reading:

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Wellington, Government Printer.

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

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http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=214