



## *Anisotome patula*

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

At Risk - Declining

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. South Island, South Canterbury where it is known from a few populations at Pareora, Manahune, and Tengawai. However, the exact distribution and status of this species is still unclear (B.P.J. Molloy pers. comm.).

### **Habitat:**

Confined to limestone where it grows in crevices, joints and on the associated deeply weathered rendzina soils. Prefers open sites within little if any associated vegetation cover.

### **Features\*:**

Tap-rooted, perennial, grey-green herb forming lax rosettes. Tap-root branching near ground level into (1-)3(-8) vegetative shoots. Leaves 3-8 per rosette, up to 200 mm long, rather lax, rarely suberect, pinnatifid, fleshy, grey-green to yellow-green. Petiole 50-100 mm, sheath with marginal wings, brown to brown-grey, chartaceous near apex. Leaflets 3-10 pairs, distant, sessile, 5-20 x 2-5 mm, rather variable, linear, cuneiform, deltoid to flabellate, pinnatifid, pinnatisect to deeply toothed; terminal leaflets tripartite. Cauline leaves, sparse, reduced in size, grey-green leaflets 2(-5), linear, pinnatisect or deeply toothed 1-3 times. Stems (1-)3(-8) suberect to decumbent and rather lax, 100-250 mm long. Inflorescence a lax, compound umbel. Peduncles (1-)3(-5) with 1-3 simple umbels, these subtended by 1-2 primary, narrow linear, 2-8 mm long, acuminate bracts. Flowers white, petals 0.2-0.5 x 0.2-0.5 mm, ovate, elliptic. Mericarps 2.5-3 x 0.5-1 mm, narrowly ellipsoid grey-brown.

### **Flowering:**

December - April

### **Fruiting:**

December - April

### **Threats:**

Under severe threat from the spread of *Hieraceum pilosella* L. and pasture grasses, habitat loss due to changes in stocking regimes, and through browsing from feral goats. Limestone quarrying is a long-term threat, while the very small populations are vulnerable to erosion, boulder and rock falls and erosion

### **\*Attribution:**

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (28 August 2004). Description from fresh plants and herbarium specimens.

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=2303](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2303)



**Caption:** In cultivation

**Photographer:** Geoff Davidson



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