



## *Azorella macquariensis*

### **Common Name(s):**

none known

### **Current Threat Status (2009):**

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### **Distribution:**

Endemic to Macquarie Island.

### **Habitat:**

The dominant species of the feldmark vegetation community and also common in other windswept situations. Forming dense, extensive cushions and tight mats through which little other vegetation can penetrate.

### **Features\*:**

Perennial herb forming extensive compact mats, cushions, or in exposed situations button-like balls; main branches prostrate, woody to 5 mm in diameter; lateral shoots erect, herbaceous, freely branched, crowded, 30-150 mm tall, clothed in old leaf remnants. Leaves alternate, imbricate, appressed to stems, persistent; petioles white 3-10 mm long, thickened at apex, 3-5-veined, with a membranous wing outside the veins, the wings fused to form a sheath around the stem in the lower 1/4-1/2 and produced above to form a very short runcate ridge-like ligule at the base of the lamina; lamina 3-5-partite, lobes divided almost to base of leaves, lanceolate, 1.7-4 x 0.6-1.4 mm, thick and more or less fleshy, acute with a terminal setose apiculum, margins thickened, glabrous or with 1-5 bristle-like hairs 1.4-4 mm long on the undersides. Flowers terminal, solitary or paired, hermaphrodite, peduncles short with the flowers enclosed by the upper leaves. Involucral bracts 2, fused at the base to form a small cup, leaf-like or lanceolate. Sepals 5, 0.5-0.9 mm long white, linear, unequal. Petals 5, 1.5-2 mm long, pale reddish brown, incurved, somewhat cucullate, acute. Stamens 5, 1.7-3 mm long. Styles 2, 0.75-1 mm long, with a swollen stylopodium at the base. Ovary slightly laterally compressed. Fruit yellow-brown, sessile or on a pedicel 1 mm long (so hidden amongst leaves); body of fruit obovoid and slightly flattened laterally 1.3-1.7 x 1-1.5 mm, 0.9-1 mm thick, weakly ribbed, styles persistent, sepals deciduous.

### **Flowering:**

December - February

### **Fruiting:**

January - April

### **Threats:**

None evident. Endemic to Macquarie Island where it is locally common.

### **\*Attribution:**

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 November 2008. Description from Orchard (1989).

### **References and further reading:**

Orchard, A.E. 1989: *Azorella* Lamarck (Apiaceae) on Heard and Macquarie Islands, with description of a new species, *A. macquariensis*. *Muelleria* 7(1): 15-20.

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

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=2333](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2333)