



## *Aciphylla congesta*

### Common Name(s):

None known

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic. South Island; south Westland, western Otago, north-western Southland, Fiordland

### Habitat:

High rainfall fellfield, particularly where snow accumulates and exposed sites. 1200 - 2000 m a.s.l.

### Features\*:

Tufted herb forming clumps to 30 cm diam. Rosettes multiple. Leaves many, soft, striate, 1-pinnate; sheath thin, with hyaline margin, to 6 cm long, tapering from 20 mm to 7 mm wide; stipules c. 6.5 cm long x 5 mm wide, linear-oblong, abruptly narrowing to acicular tip; petioles to 8 cm long, flat, sometimes vestigial; internodes (inter-pinna spacing) to 10 mm long; primary pinnae in 2-3 pairs, laminae of pinna to c. 6 cm long x 5 mm wide, abruptly narrowing to pungent apex. Male flowering stem stout, 30 cm x c. 15 mm wide; lower bract sheaths broad, to 25 x 15 mm tapering to long pungent tips; lower bract lamina and stipules leaf-like. Umbels 6-12, crowded, forming a globose head c. 12 cm diam.; primary rays stout, c. 4 cm long, +/- whorled, subtended by whorl of bracts; umbellules several, crowded, to 2 cm diam., on slender rays c. 5 mm long. Female flowering stem similar, forming a globose head to 15 cm diam.; primary rays grooved, c. 60 mm long x 3 mm wide; involucre bracts whorled; bract sheath 10 mm long x 7 mm wide, submembranous; bract stipules and lamina to 4 cm long; umbellules to 3 cm diam., rays many, crowded. Fruit of two mericarps; mericarps narrowly elliptic to elliptic, 4.0-5.2 mm, with (3-4-)5 even narrowly winged ribs, 4 low indistinct ribs on vittae, vittae largely obscured

### \*Attribution:

Description adapted from Allan (1961), Mark and Adams (1995) and Webb and Simpson (2001).

### References and further reading:

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

Mark, A.F; Adams, N.M. 1995. New Zealand alpine plants, 2nd Edition. Godwit Publishing, Auckland

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

Webb, C.J. & Simpson, M.J.A. 2001. Seeds of NZ gymnosperms and dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=350](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=350)



**Caption:** rosette, Wapiti River catchment, Central Fiordland, 1200m asl

**Photographer:** Rowan Hindmarsh-Walls



**Caption:** leaves, Wapiti River catchment, Central Fiordland, 1200m asl

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