



Aciphylla dissecta

Common Name(s):

None known

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island; Tararua Ranges

Habitat:

Low alpine snow tussock grass-herbfield. Often hidden amongst tussocks unless flowering (or sat on). 1000-1600 m a.s.l.

Features*:

Herb forming stout tufts to 30-40 cm tall in flower. Rosettes usually single. Leaves many, stiff, coriaceous, (2)-3-pinnate, to 30 cm long; sheath narrow, to 3 cm long x 3 mm wide; stipules almost filiforme, c. 10 mm long, sometimes forked, sharply pointed; petioles 10-15 mm long, inter-pinna spacing short; primary pinnae in 8-10 pairs, linear-oblong, c. 2-5 cm long; secondary pinnae further cut into several pungent, ascending pinnules to 25 mm long x 1-1.5 mm wide. Female flowering stem stout, grooved, c. 30 cm long x 1 cm wide; flowering stem bracts leaflike, lower bract sheaths c. 3 cm long x 5 mm wide, with scarious margins, lower bract stipules <10 mm long; bract lamina with segments to 3 mm wide. Inflorescence an open panicle; umbels 3-4 cm diam., peduncles distant, stout, spreading, c. 4 cm long; involucral bracts linear; rays several, to 1 cm long; umbellules c. 15 mm diam., on slender short rays. Fruit of two mericarps; mericarps narrowly oblong-elliptic to ovate-elliptic, narrowed to apex, (4.0-)4.5-6.0 mm, with 5 even narrowly winged ribs, vittae obscured

***Attribution:**

Description adapted from Allan (1961), Mark and Adams (1005) 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=352



Caption: Jumbo, Tararua Range
Photographer: John Sawyer



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