



## *Anisotome acutifolia*

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

Snares Islands Anisotome

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

Threatened - Nationally Critical

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. Snares Islands where it is known from North East and Broughton islands.

### **Habitat:**

In open ground on margin of dense *Olearia lyallii* forest, and also recorded from dense *Poa foliosa* tussock land. Growing semi-shaded sites on deep, permanently damp, peaty soil enriched with bird guano.

### **Features:**

Stout, perennial, shortly creeping, stoloniferous herb reaching up to 2 m tall when flowering. Stolons up to 0.3 m long, stout, fleshy, when bruised leaking clear fluid. Basal leaves numerous, coriaceous, 0.50-0.70 m x 0.15-0.20 m, dark green, 2-3-pinnate; primary leaflets in 5-7- pairs, ovate, shortly petiolulate, subcoriaceous., prominently veined; secondary leaflets ovate to lanceolate; pinnately or pinnatifidly divided into deeply toothed and incised segments; teeth acute, not piliferous; petioles 0.2-0.35 m x 4-10 mm, cylindrical; sheaths 40-80 x 25-40 mm, prolonged at apex into an undivided membranous ligule 40-80 mm long; sheaths of cauline leaves inflated; peduncles 90-150 mm long. Inflorescence axis up to 2 m tall and 13 mm diameter at first node. Flowers dirty white to pale pinkish with a slight foetid odour. Staminate plants not described. Pistillate plants bearing an involucre of few linear bracts 6-8 x 1-1.5 mm or not; involucre of several linear bracteoles 7.0-10.0 mm x 0.5-1.0 mm; rays 20-30, 10-25 mm long; pedicels 20-50, 3-5 mm long; styles robust, 0.5-1.0 mm long, divergent. Mericarp 4.0-5.0 x 2.5-3.0 mm long, narrowly elliptic to elliptic, rarely ovate-elliptic, 4.0-4.8(-5.3) mm long; apex and base usually obtuse, sometimes narrow to apex; 5-ribbed, ribs even, equal, thin, narrowly winged with a fine hyaline margin. Surface dull, ribs pale to light orange-yellow, yellow or orange; vittae obscured on dorsal surface, rarely visible, and if so grey brown.

### **Flowering:**

December - January

### **Fruiting:**

January-February

### **Threats:**

Believed not to be threatened. However, it is known from only a handful of sites (which may even comprise single plants). It is almost certainly incorrectly listed not because it is actively threatened but rather because the total area of occupancy is believed less than 1 ha. About 1000-3000 mature plants are known but few seedlings have ever been seen, and many of the plants observed could be derived through vegetative spread.

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

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

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