



Apium prostratum subsp. *denticulatum*

Common Name(s):

Chatham Island celery

Current Threat Status (2012):

Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic to the Chatham and Antipodes islands

Habitat:

Coastal. Found on rock shorelines, boulder and sand beaches, on basalt, limestone and schist outcrops and in coastal turf. Also common amongst driftwood and kelp, and within saltmarshes and seepages near the sea. On the outer islands often found in association with burrowing petrels, and so may on occasion be found within tall forest.

Features:

Perennial, glabrous, prostrate herb. Stems prostrate, sprawling, often ascending though surrounding vegetation, not rooting at nodes; 0.3-1.2 m long, up to 6 mm diam. Leaves dark green to yellow green, basal ones on long, slender petioles up to 500 mm (usually much less); pinnately 3-foliolate to 1-2-pinnate with 3-7 leaflets, segments ovate, obovate to cuneate, denticulate; leaves opposite umbels up to 600 mm long; leaflets all primary, 3-5, divided, with margins of primary segments denticulate due to the large number of secondary and tertiary segments, ultimate segments to tertiary order, c.50-120. Inflorescences in compound umbels, sessile or pedunculate; peduncle usually present. 2-20 mm x 1-3 mm, usually ebracteate, sometimes one present present, this usually shedding early in umbel maturation. Rays 10-20, 0.4-8 mm long. Petals off-white to cream, with yellow-brown mid vein, ovate 0.75-1.5 x 0.5-1.0 mm, constricted at base, apex acute. Stamens about length of petals, filaments pale yellow to cream; anthers whitre or pale yellow, 0.3-0.4 x 0.3-0.4 mm. Ovary glabrous, stylopodium disciform; style 0.25-0.40 mm. Mericarps (1.5-)2.0-2.7 mm long, ovate to ovate-oblong, apex narrowed to persistent withered calyx teeth and style remnant, base broad and rounded to weakly cordate; ribs prominent, broad, rounded and spongy. Surface dull yellow to pale brown.

Flowering:

(July-) October -
February

Fruiting:

(September-) February (-
May)

Threats:

Not Threatened. Listed because it is a local endemic, abundant on all the main Chatham and Antipodes islands.

References and further reading:

Johnson, A. T., Smith, H. A. (1972). *Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning.* Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=367



Caption: Chatham Islands
Photographer: John Sawyer



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