

Acaena buchananii

COMMON NAME

bidibid, piripiri

SYNONYMS

Acaena buchananii var. *picta* Allan, *A. buchananii* var. *inermis* Bitter, *A. depressa* Kirk

FAMILY

Rosaceae

AUTHORITY

Acaena buchananii Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

ACABUC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.42

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

2009 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Gradual Decline

DISTRIBUTION

Eastern South Island from Marlborough to Otago. Lowland to montane short dry tussockland and turf, mainly in inland basins. In the drier parts of Central Otago it can be locally common especially in closely grazed non-improved pasture.

HABITAT

Montane riverbeds and tussock grassland.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Leaves milky green or grey, lacking pattern of darker veins; heads unstalked; fruits c. 10 per head; fruit spines with soft hairs bent backwards at tip.

SIMILAR TAXA

Perhaps closest to *A. tesca* B.Macmillan from which it differs by its more compact growth form, with densely tufted leafy stems, pale milky green or grey foliage, by the almost imbricate 5-6 leaflet pairs, and by the compressed capitula with the yellow spines held erect. The status of *A. buchananii* var. *picta* (grey leaves and red spines) needs further study.



Habitat at rise and shine creek, Dunstan Mountains. Photographer: Kelvin Lloyd, Licence: All rights reserved.



Fruiting in Research gardens, Botany Department. Photographer: Kelvin Lloyd, Licence: All rights reserved.

FLOWERING

Flowers in December

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

FRUITING

Unknown

LIFE CYCLE

Spiny hypanthia are dispersed by attaching to fur, feathers and clothing and possibly also dispersed by wind and granivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Very easy from rooted pieces.

THREATS

Habitat destruction through land development such as cultivation, oversowing, irrigation, orchard and vineyard establishment.

ETYMOLOGY

acaena: From the Greek 'akanthos' thorn, referring to the spiny calyx that many species have

buchananii: Named after John Buchanan (13 October 1819-1898) who was a New Zealand botanist and scientific artist and fellow of the Linnean Society.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (1 August 2003).

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* 11: 285-309.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/acaena-buchananii/>