

# Anisotome patula

## SYNONYMS

*Ligusticum patulum* Kirk

## FAMILY

Apiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Anisotome patula* (Kirk) Cockayne

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: CD, DP

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

2009 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, South Canterbury where it is known from a few populations at Pareora, Manahune, and Tengawai. However, the exact distribution and status of this species is still unclear (B.P.J. Molloy pers. comm.).

## HABITAT

Confined to limestone where it grows in crevices, joints and on the associated deeply weathered rendzina soils. Prefers open sites within little if any associated vegetation cover.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tap-rooted, perennial, grey-green herb forming lax rosettes. Tap-root branching near ground level into (1-)3(-8) vegetative shoots. Leaves 3-8 per rosette, up to 200 mm long, rather lax, rarely suberect, pinnatifid, fleshy, grey-green to yellow-green. Petiole 50-100 mm, sheath with marginal wings, brown to brown-grey, chartaceous near apex. Leaflets 3-10 pairs, distant, sessile, 5-20 x 2-5 mm, rather variable, linear, cuneiform, deltoid to flabellate, pinnatifid, pinnatisect to deeply toothed; terminal leaflets tripartite. Cauline leaves, sparse, reduced in size, grey-green leaflets 2(-5), linear, pinnatisect or deeply toothed 1-3 times. Stems (1-)3(-8) suberect to decumbent and rather lax, 100-250 mm long. Inflorescence a lax, compound umbel. Peduncles (1-)3(-5) with 1-3 simple umbels, these subtended by 1-2 primary, narrow linear, 2-8 mm long, acuminate bracts. Flowers white, petals 0.2-0.5 x 0.2-0.5 mm, ovate, elliptic. Mericarps 2.5-3 x 0.5-1 mm, narrowly ellipsoid grey-brown.



In cultivation. Photographer: Geoff Davidson, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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## SIMILAR TAXA

Anisotome patula has been included within *Gingidia enysii* (Kirk) J.W.Dawson. From that species it can be distinguished by its rather lax basal leaves whose leaflets though rather variable are usually much longer, narrower, more deeply divided and/or distinctly flabellate. The inflorescences are borne on very long, flaccid stems, and in turn the umbels are supported by very long, flaccid peduncles. Some intermediate forms do exist and these require further study.

## FLOWERING

December - April

## FRUITING

December - April

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown from fresh seed. Does best when planted in a free draining soil enriched with lime. Excellent in a pot. Prone to powdery mildew in humid climates.

## THREATS

Under severe threat from the spread of *Hieraceum pilosella* L. and pasture grasses, habitat loss due to changes in stocking regimes, and through browsing from feral goats. Limestone quarrying is a long-term threat, while the very small populations are vulnerable to erosion, boulder and rock falls and erosion

## ETYMOLOGY

**anisotome:** Unequal sided

**patula:** Spreading

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (28 August 2004). Description from fresh plants and herbarium specimens.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Anisotome patula* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/anisotome-patula/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/anisotome-patula/>