

Azorella pallida

SYNONYMS

Pozoa pallida Kirk, *Schizeilema pallidum* (Kirk) Domin

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Azorella pallida (Kirk) Kirk

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

SCHPAL

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic, South Island easterly from Marlborough to Canterbury

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine (400-1400 m a.s.l.). In damp sites within forest, shrubland, grassland and herbfield, often along stream sides and lake margins.



Broken River, Canterbury. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 14/12/2019, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Broken River, Canterbury. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 14/12/2019, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Bright green to yellow-green, glabrous, creeping, perennial herb from dense to diffuse patches 0.2-1 m diameter. Stems slender, much branched, usually arching and rooting at nodes. Leaves crowded at nodes and toward branch and stem apices. Petioles up to 50 mm long, slender, somewhat wiry, bright green; stipules deeply lacinate. Leaves up to 20 mm diameter, 3-foliolate or deeply 3-partite, membranous, pale green, bright green to yellow-green, upper surface very glossy undersides less so; leaflets obovate-cuneate, apices with 3-6 rounded to obtuse lobes. Peduncles up to 5 mm long. Umbels 4-12-flowered, simple (rarely with the inflorescence axis bearing up to more or less evenly spaced 4 umbels), sometimes with 2-3 long-pedicelled secondary umbels from base of primary; secondary umbels often umbellulate. Pedicels sometimes replaced by leaf-like bracts or small leaves. Involucral bracts linear to narrow-lanceolate, acute or obtuse. Petals greenish-yellow to cream. Schizocarp tetragonous; mericarps 4-ribbed, 1.8-2.3 mm long, dull brown, dark brown, red-brown or dark purple-brown, ovate, broadly ovate, broadly obovate, elliptic-ovate or elliptic-oblong.

SIMILAR TAXA

The bright green, yellow-green to pale-green colouration, obtuse ended involucral bracts, and membranous 3-foliolate to 3-partite leaves distinguish this species from all other indigenous *Schizeilema*. The schizocarp of *Schizeilema* is the best quick way to distinguish the genus from the superficially similar *Hydrocotyle* L. In *Schizeilema* the mericarps are terete or dorsally compressed while those of *Hydrocotyle* are laterally strongly compressed and are usually asymmetric with a flattened ventral and a rounded dorsal surface.

FLOWERING

December - February

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

FRUITING

January - March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from rooted pieces and fresh seed. An attractive bright-green to yellow-green creeping plant for sunny or shaded damp places. Does not tolerate much humidity and should not be allowed to dry out.

THREATS

Not threatened. An apparently widespread and at times locally common though mostly sparsely distributed species.

ETYMOLOGY

pallida: From the Latin pallidus 'pale or pallid'

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/azorella-pallida/>