

# 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/>