

# Acaena microphylla var. pauciglochidiata

## FAMILY

Rosaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Acaena microphylla* var. *pauciglochidiata* Bitter

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

ACAMVP

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.42

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

**South Island:** Otago Peninsula, Southland coast; **Stewart Island/Rakiura:** between Ruggedy and Hellfire.

## HABITAT

Coastal gravel and sandy ground.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizomatous perennial, mat-forming. **Stems** c. 1 mm diam., < 25 cm long, soon rooting and covered by soil; erect branchlets < 2 cm long. **Leaves** 0.5–3 cm long; stipules entire; leaflets 9–15, orbicular, 1.5–4 × 1.5–4 mm, with 5–7 obtuse teeth, green or bronze and shining on upper surface, with veins and teeth dark, glaucescent and sparsely hairy on lower surface. **Capitulum** ± sessile c. 5 mm diameter at flowering, < 3 cm diameter (including spines) at fruiting; florets c. 2–4; sepals 4; stamens 2; anthers white; styles 2, white. **Fruit** turbinate, c. 2 × 2 mm, glabrous; spines with a few stiff hairs at tip. **Achenes** 2.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from other *Acaena* species by its mat-forming growth and leaflets that are green or bronze above. From *Acaena microphylla* var. *microphylla* it is distinguished by its fruiting heads hidden among leaves, 2–4 fruits with pale red spines bearing a few stiff hairs at tip or naked.



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



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## ETYMOLOGY

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

**microphylla:** Small leaf

**pauciglochidiata:** 'pauci' meaning few, 'glochidiata' meaning barbed, referring to the few barbs on the fruits of this variety.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (13 December 2022). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Similar taxa sections copied from Webb *et al.* (1988).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ. 1988. Flora of New Zealand, Volume IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Christchurch, NZ. 1365 p.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/acaena-microphylla-var-pauciglochidiata/>