

Proposed Mt Watkin Reserve -

- important site for vulnerable new Gingidia sp

I was just reading the notes in the recent BSO newsletter on Mt Watkin. The *Gingidia* (native aniseed) there is particularly interesting. Brian Patrick noted quite a number of years ago that *Gingidia* plants from NE Otago had a different invertebrate fauna from *G. montana*, and he considered it to be a different species.

I've been looking at this over the past 2 years and agree with Brian that there is an unnamed species of *Gingidia* in NE Otago. I think Mt Watkin is the southern limit and it goes north to near the Mill House. It's most common around Trotters Gorge. At quite a number of the sites that Brian recorded it from, and to which I've been back, and not found it, it is being shaded out by broom and forestry plantations. The record from Mt Watkin is therefore a very important one.

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