

Pirri-pirri burr

Scientific name: *Acaena novae-zealandiae*

Also known as: Bidibid

Native to: New Zealand, Australia and South America

Habitat: Woodland, forestry plantations and tracks, sand dunes, railway embankments and other bare ground

A mat-forming perennial with a woody base and herbaceous stems. Considered a dwarf shrub and mainly evergreen.

Found in many lowland, and some upland, parts of Great Britain (GB), particularly in the north-east of England. Introduced as an ornamental plant but may also have arrived with contaminated wool imports. Has spread in the environment due to its ability to produce burs which attach to livestock, animals, clothing and textiles, and improper garden plant disposal. Forms dense mats that outcompete native plants. Burs can be a nuisance and harm young birds.



Key ID Features



Similar Species

Some native plants can be confused with pirri-pirri burr. The most common are agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatorium*) and silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*). Both can be separated from *Acaena novae-zealandiae* by the ID features below, particularly the small leaflets.

Agrimony

Native

(*Agrimonia eupatorium*)

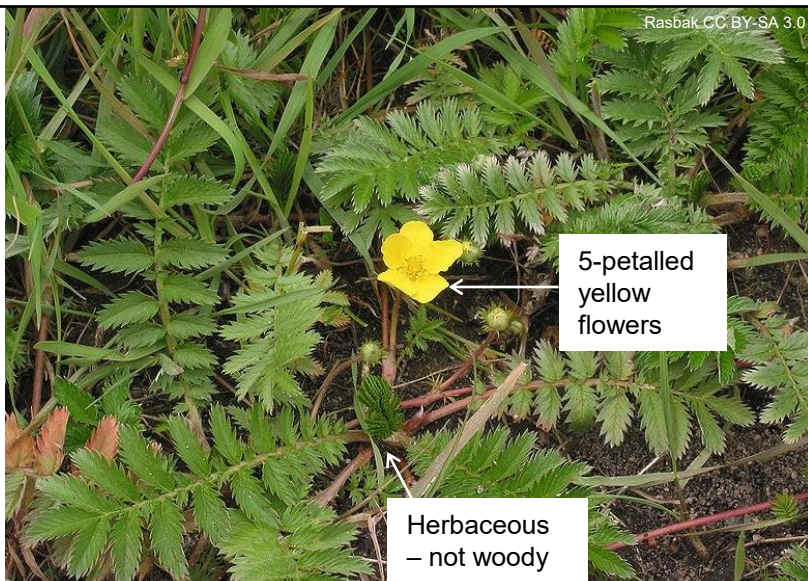
Agrimony can be mistaken for a young pirri-pirri burr but is an upright herb with flowers/fruit in a spike and a different leaf structure to *Acaena novae-zealandiae*.



Silverweed

Native

(*Potentilla anserina*)



Further information:

- <https://www.nonnativespecies.org/non-native-species/information-portal/view/11>
- https://www.nonnativespecies.org/assets/Uploads/RSS_RA_Acaena_novae-zealandia.pdf
- <https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/10.1079/cabicompendium.107916>