

Hydrocotyle verticillata

COMMON NAME

pennywort

FAMILY

Araliaceae

AUTHORITY

Hydrocotyle verticillata Thunb.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A marginal, occasionally submerged aquatic plant, with creeping stems and round leaves, the stalk attached in its centre.

DISTRIBUTION

Only known from a stream in Hawke's Bay and Tauranga, Bay of Plenty.

HABITAT

Still and slow flowing water bodies and wetlands.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender emergent or submerged, creeping, glabrous perennial herb. Leaves alternate, peltate, orbiculate with crenate margins, up to 60 mm across. Petiole up to 30 cm long. Inflorescence of several whorls of subsessile flowers c. 1 mm across, pinkish green. Fruit 4 mm across, with prominent ribs.

SIMILAR TAXA

No similar species in aquatic habitats.

FLOWERING

Summer

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Red/Pink

FRUITING

Summer to autumn

LIFE CYCLE

Spreads by water dispersed fragments, deliberate planting or aquarium discards.

YEAR NATURALISED

1995

ORIGIN

North Central and South America, West Indies.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental pond and aquarium plant.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.



ETYMOLOGY

hydrocotyle: From the Greek hydor 'water' and cotyle 'cup', in reference to the cup-like hollow at the base of the leaf.

ATTRIBUTION

Prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Heenan, P.B.; de Lange, P.J.; Cameron, E.K.; Ogle, C.C.; Champion, P.D. (2004). Checklist of dicotyledons, gymnosperms and pteridophytes naturalised or casual in New Zealand: additional records 2001-2003. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 797-814.

Johnson, A. T. and Smith, H. A (1986). *Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning*. Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

Muenscher, W.C. (1944). *Aquatic plants of the United States*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London. 374 pp.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hydrocotyle-verticillata/>