

Callitriche antarctica

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, RR, SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted to spreading, much branched, succulent perennial herb forming dense bright to dark green patches on mud. Branches thick, creeping below with ascending branches up to 100 mm long. Leaves on stout petioles 2-3 mm long, lamina succulent, 2.5-10 x 1.5-4.8 mm, dark green to light green, spatulate to oblong-spatulate, 3-nerved, sometimes with free veins, apex rounded, base scarious. Flowers solitary, males in upper and femal lower axils, ebracteate or with bracts shedding early. Filaments to 13 mm, tapering from broad base. Mericarp more or less elliptic, laterally compressed, 0.9-1.2(-1.5) mm long, surface reticulate, or colliculate, dull pale orange-yellow, orange-brown or dark brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Callitriche aucklandica R.Mason is similar but differs by its longer, laxly creeping, rather than ascending stems, fleshy rather than succulent leaves with broadly fused petioles, shorter filaments (9 cf. 1.3 mm) and larger fruits (1.0-1.6 cf. 0.9-1.5 mm).

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. In New Zealand known from Campbell and Auckland Islands. Also on Macquarie, Heard Island and Tasmania. Probably elsewhere on the subantarctic islands.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane in damp, peaty and boggy ground. Common around sea bird nesting grounds, penguin rookeries and seal haul outs. Prefers open, disturbed habitats,

THREATS

Not Threatened. Listed because in the New Zealand region it has a restricted geographic range.

GENUS

Callitriche

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Callitriche antarctica Hegelm.

SYNONYMS

None Known

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



Macquarie Island. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 03/01/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Macquarie Island. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 03/01/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November - December

FRUITING

December - January

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Mericarps possibly by water and attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Probably easy. However, not known to have been cultivated.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

callitriche: From the Greek kalli 'beautiful' and thrix 'hair', referring to the beautiful stems

antarctica: Antarctic

NVS CODE

CALANT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, SO

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, SO

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

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 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/callitriche-antarctica/>

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