

Callitriche aucklandica

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR, Sp

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial, creeping bright green to dark green fleshy to membranous herb. Stems rather lax, sprawling up to 300 mm long. Leaves on broad, membranous fused petioles; lamina fleshy, 3.6-8 x 1.2-4 mm, dark green to bright green, spatulate. Flowers solitary or in pairs, ebracteate. Filaments to 9 mm long, tapering from broad base. Mericarps more or less elliptic, obovate-elliptic or obovate, laterally compressed, 1.0-1.6 mm long; surface colliculate or reticulate, dull, pale orange-yellow, medium to light brown or grey brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Closest to *C. antarctica* Hegelm from which it differs by its larger size, fleshy rather than succulent leaves, lax rather than erect branches, broad, connate petioles smaller leaves (3.6-8 x 1.2-4 cf. 2.5-10 x 1.5-4.8 mm), and keeled and winged rather than rounded mericarps.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Auckland Islands only

HABITAT

Coastal to montane on exposed, in pools and on sodden peat, in heavy shade under shrubs and tussocks. Often near bird colonies but also common on exposed mud within forest and scrub.

THREATS

Not Threatened. Listed because it is endemic to the Auckland Islands. On these islands it is abundant.

GENUS

Callitriche

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Callitriche aucklandica R.Mason

SYNONYMS

None

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October - November

FRUITING

November - April

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Probably easy. However it is currently not in cultivation.

ETYMOLOGY

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

aucklandica: Of the Auckland Islands

NVS CODE

CALAUC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

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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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/callitriche-aucklandica/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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

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