Callitriche brutia var. hamulata

**COMMON NAME**
water starwort

**SYNONYMS**
Callitriche hamulata

**FAMILY**
Plantaginaceae

**AUTHORITY**
Callitriche brutia var. hamulata Koch

**FLORA CATEGORY**
Vascular – Exotic

**STRUCTURAL CLASS**
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**
Aquatic linear underwater leaves, indented and often widened at apex, 8 to 20 mm long. Floating leaves in a rosette much broader. Flowers and fruit tiny, found at the leaf base.

**DISTRIBUTION**
Kaipara Harbour and Marlborough.

**HABITAT**
Shallow water of lake margins and drains.

**FEATURES**
An aquatic glabrous (smooth/hairless) herb with submerged and floating leaves, or growing prostrate on damp mud. The submerged leaves are linear (single veined), 6 to 30 mm long and up to 1 mm wide, and deeply notched at the apex. The rosette forming, surface leaves are spatulate (spoon shaped) to ovate and have 3 veins. The flowers are solitary at the base of the leaves, without petals or seeals, and bract may be present (rarely). The fruit are sessile, pale green to dark grey/brown 1 to 1.4 mm wide with a very narrow wing running around the top and often the base.

**SIMILAR TAXA**
All Callitriche species are superficially similar and have variable vegetative parts (Lansdown 2008). Linear deeply notched submerged and circular fruit with reflexed styles and a very narrow wing are diagnostic for this plant.

**FLOWERING**
Spring/summer

**FLOWER COLOURS**
Green

**FRUITING**
Summer to autumn

**LIFE CYCLE**
Plant fragments and seed.

**YEAR NATURALISED**
1959

**ORIGIN**
Europe and North Africa

**REASON FOR INTRODUCTION**
Probably a soil seed contaminant or contaminant of ornamental pond plants.
CONTROL TECHNIQUES
Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

TOLERANCES
The taxonomy of the four introduced Northern Hemisphere Callitriche requires further investigation in New Zealand.

ETYMOLOGY
callitriche: From the Greek kalli ‘beautiful’ and thrix ‘hair’, referring to the beautiful stems

ATTRIBUTION
Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

MORE INFORMATION