

Callitriche chathamensis

COMMON NAMES

Chatham Island starwort

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)



CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stem and axillary scales present. Leaf bases connate. Lingulate leaves slightly wider toward apex, 1.0–1.4 mm long × 8.0–9.7 mm wide; expanded submerged or floating leaves ovate-elliptic 2.2–4.1 mm long × 0.8–2.5 mm wide, venation complex with frequent branches arising within and outside the secondary veins, secondary veins sometimes undulating, petiole 1.6–4.5 mm long; leaves of terrestrial plants unknown. Monoecious, flowers solitary, often alternating  and  along stem. Bracts lacking. Styles erect, 1.1–2.3 mm long. Filament erect, 4.5–6.8 mm long; anthers 0.5–0.6 mm long × 0.5–0.6 mm wide, quadricolour; pollen yellow. Fruit not strumose, subsessile, wider than high, pale brown when mature, 0.6–0.9 mm long × 0.7–1.1 mm long wide, unwinged.

SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from *C. petriei* by its monoecious rather than dioecious habit, larger leaves (2.5–8 cf 1.1–5 mm), larger fruit (0.6–0.9 × 0.7–1.1 cf. 0.6–0.7 × 0.7–0.9 mm); by the pale or golden brown unwinged fruit which are wider than high, and the lack of floral bracts. As the species name implies this species is restricted to the Chatham Island archipelago.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to the Chatham Islands

HABITAT

Found on wet, peaty ground, commonly at the edges of streams and lakes, on bare peat and mud. Also in damp peaty turf on steep cliff faces, ledges and rubble near the sea.

THREATS

Not threatened and only listed because it is an island endemic which occupies a limited geographic area. It is abundant in suitable habitats on the two main Chatham Islands

GENUS

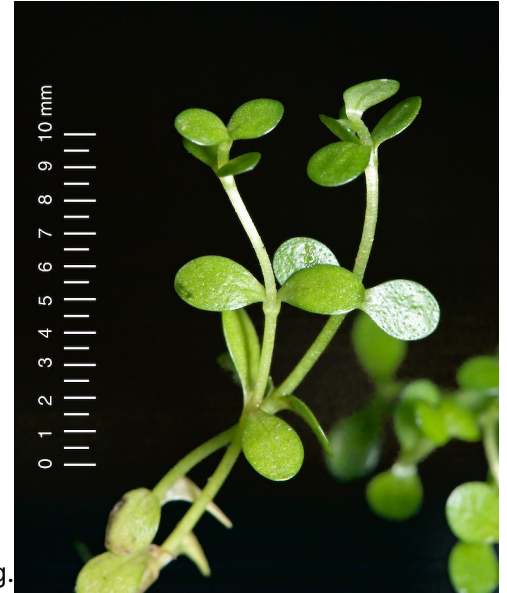
Callitriche

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Callitriche chathamensis (Mason) Lansdown



In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 21/03/2007, Licence: CC BY.



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SYNONYMS

Callitriche petriei subsp. *chathamensis* R.Mason

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

January - March

FRUITING

January - March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy to grow from rooted pieces and rapidly becomes invasive. Not a very attractive plant for a garden but could be useful on the margin of the pond

ETYMOLOGY

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

NVS CODE

CALCHA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 20$

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

Lansdown, R.V., 2022: The genus *Callitriche* (Plantaginaceae, Callitricheae) in Australasia and Oceania. *Phytotaxa* 547: 243–284.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (24 May 2022). Description from Lansdown (2022)

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026