

Callitriche petriei

COMMON NAME

Petrie's starwort

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Callitriche petriei R.Mason

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 20

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands. Scarce north of Auckland.

HABITAT

Coastal to alpine in damp muddy ground, lake, pond and tarn turf, in damp temporary pools, puddles and soaks within forest and scrub. Sometimes found permanently submerged.

FEATURES

Diminutive, dioecious to subdioecious, widely creeping perennial with weakly ascending to erect branches 30-100 mm long. Leaves 1.1-5 mm long, bright green to yellow green, spatulate to orbicular, the larger leaves often with short side veins arising from the midrib, and with two lateral veins. Flowers solitary, alternate on either side of stem, ebracteate. Fruit an more or less elliptic mericarp, laterally compressed, 0.6-0.7 x 0.7-0.9 mm, dull grey-brown or orange-yellow, lobes not rounded, keeled or winged.

SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from *C. chathamensis* by its dioecious rather than monoecious habit, smaller leaves (1.1-5 cf 2.5-8 mm), smaller fruit (0.6-0.7 x 0.7-0.9 cf. 0.6-0.9 x 0.7-1.1 mm), and restriction to the North and South Islands of New Zealand.



In cultivation ex Taranaki. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



In cultivation ex Taranaki. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

FLOWERING

November - January

FRUITING

January - February

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from rooted pieces and fresh seed, A delicate plant that is unlikely to be widely cultivated.

ETYMOLOGY

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

petriei: Named after Donald Petrie (1846 -1925), Scottish born Otago botanist

ATTRIBUTION

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

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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