

# Chara fibrosa

## COMMON NAMES

Stonewort

## BIOSTATUS

Native

## CATEGORY

Non-vascular

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Small branched spiny submerged plant looking like a miniature pine tree.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Aquatic, submerged, macro-algae. Spinose appearance, with outward-facing, spine-like cells on branchlet whorls and central stems. Branches are not forked. Stems are covered by a secondary cell layer (cortication), making them more resistant to physical damage. Accessory cells at junctions between branchlet cells are long and spine-like. Stems are anchored in the sediment by colourless rhizoids. Plant is monoecious, with antheridia and oogonia on the same plant often located together, and with fruiting bodies dispersed over the upper stem portions.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from *Lamprothamnium macropogon* by having spreading spine-like cells all over the stems, compared to downward pointing spines around the branchlet whorl only in the brackish water species.

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North, South Island. Widespread globally.

## HABITAT

Oligotrophic lakes.

## GENUS

*Chara*

## FAMILY

Characeae

## AUTHORITY

*Chara fibrosa* (Agardh ex Bruzelius) R.D. Wood

## FRUITING

Produces large (>500µm long) black oospores that are round in transverse section. Oospore has 7-9 sinistral spiralling ridges.

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Fragments or oospores.

## ETYMOLOGY

**chara:** Origin unknown, possibly from the Greek charis 'grace' or 'beauty'

**fibrosa:** Fibrous, from the Latin fibra; matted fibrous trunk

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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Casanova, M.T.; de Winton, M.D.; Karol, K.G.; Clayton J.S. (2007). *Nitella hookeri* A. Braun (Characeae, Charophyceae) in New Zealand and Australia: implications for endemism, speciation and biogeography. *Charophytes* (1): 2-18

de Winton, M.D.; Dugdale, A.M.; Clayton, J.S. (2007). An identification key for oospores of the extant charophytes of New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany*:463-476

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**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/chara-fibrosa/>

**PDF DATE**

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