

Erythranthe guttata

COMMON NAMES

monkey musk

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

A robust soft herb forming bright green leafy clumps or large masses. Plants grown up to 60 cm tall on wet/damp ground. The leaves are sparsely hairy (or not) and corrugated between the veins, and may have a short petiole (or not). The yellow flowers are up to 40 mm long and have red spots/blotches inside the throat of the flower.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect perennial herb to 60 cm tall. Rhizomes. Stems thick, stiff, occasionally branched. Leaves opposite, oval, up to 12 x 8 cm, usually hairless, bright green, toothed-edged. Flowers 3 cm diameter, on stalks, yellow with red spots on bearded lower lip, with a long corolla tube, throat closed with five rounded lobes. Seed capsule 1 cm long, 2-valved, with many patterned seeds.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar in appearance to *Erythranthe moschata* which is a smaller sticky-hairy perennial and does not have red blotches on its flowers. Also similar to *E. lutea* var. *lutea* which has more decumbent stems, a glabrous inflorescence.

DISTRIBUTION

Throughout, although uncommon northwards from Hamilton

HABITAT

Lowland to montane regions, alongside streams, rivers, lakes, drains and swamps.

GENUS

Erythranthe

FAMILY

Phrymaceae

AUTHORITY

Erythranthe guttata (DC.) G.L.Nesom

SYNONYMS

Mimulus guttatus DC.



Silverstream, Upper Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 05/04/2006, Licence: CC BY.



Mimulus guttatus. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November to March

FRUITING

Autumn

YEAR NATURALISED

1878

ORIGIN

W. North America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Tolerant to hot-cold, wind, semi-shade, most soils.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Included on the Northland Regional Council pest management strategy. Report if found in Northland. Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial, reproduces from seed and rhizome fragments. Dispersal by water movement and dumped soil.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

guttata: From the Latin guttatus 'spotted'

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

NVS CODE

ERYGUT

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.;

ATTRIBUTION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/erythranthe-guttata/>

PDF DATE

08 June 2026