

Erythranthe guttata

COMMON NAME

monkey musk

SYNONYMS

Mimulus guttatus DC.

FAMILY

Phrymaceae

AUTHORITY

Erythranthe guttata (DC.) G.L.Nesom

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

ERYGUT

BRIEF 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.

DISTRIBUTION

Throughout, although uncommon northwards from Hamilton

HABITAT

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

FEATURES

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.

FLOWERING

November to March

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Yellow

FRUITING

Autumn



Silverstream, Upper Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Remutaka Rail Trail. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

LIFE CYCLE

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

YEAR NATURALISED

1878

ORIGIN

W. North America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

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.

TOLERANCES

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

ETYMOLOGY

guttata: From the Latin guttatus 'spotted'

ATTRIBUTION

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

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.;

MORE INFORMATION

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