Erythranthe moschata

COMMON NAMES
musk

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION
Sticky-hairy clumps that grow up to 10 to 40 cm tall. The leaves are pale green and small (10 to 40 mm long) with a short petiole. The yellow flowers are up to 20mm long.

FLOWER COLOURS
Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Glandular-hairy perennial herb forming sprawling mats. Leaves opposite, lanceolate to ovate up to 5 x 2.5 cm in length and width. Leaves toothed or entire with a short petiole. Flowers yellow, up to 2 cm long, with a long corolla tube, throat open with five rounded lobes. Seed capsule 5 mm long, ovoid

SIMILAR TAXA
Similar in appearance to E. guttata which is larger in all parts. It is not sticky-hairy perennial and has red blotches on its flowers.

DISTRIBUTION
Lower North Island and throughout the South Island, absent from Auckland and Northland.

HABITAT
Lowland to montane regions, alongside streams and rivers, in seepages and swamps.

GENUS
Erythranthe

FAMILY
Phrymaceae

AUTHORITY
Erythranthe moschata (Lindl.) G.L.Nesom

SYNONYMS
Mimulus moschatus Lindl.

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
November to March



Riverstone Terraces, Upper Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 20/01/2013, Licence: CC BY.



Stem hairs. Riverstone Terraces, Upper Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 20/01/2013, Licence: CC BY.

FRUITING
Autumn

YEAR NATURALISED
1879

ORIGIN
W. North America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Ornamental pond and garden plant.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES
Rarely problematic. Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Mainly seed 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
moschata: Musky

NVS CODE
ERYMOS

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-moschata/

PDF DATE
08 June 2026