Galium aparine

COMMON NAMES
cleavers

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS
White

GENUS
Galium

FAMILY
Rubiaceae

AUTHORITY
Galium aparine L.

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

YEAR NATURALISED
1870

ORIGIN
Temperate Eurasia

Galium aparine. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

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WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
FACU: Facultative Upland
Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY
galium: From the Greek galo ‘milk’, the leaves of Galium verum being used in the past to curdle milk

NVS CODE
GALAPA

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/galium-aparine/

PDF DATE
25 May 2026