Galium trilobum

COMMON NAME native bedstraw

SYNONYMS Galium tenuicaule A.Cunn . nom. illegit. non Krocker (1823)

FAMILY Rubiaceae

AUTHORITY Galium trilobum Colenso

FLORA CATEGORY Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE GALTRI

CHROMOSOME NUMBER 2n = 44

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS 2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened 2009 | Not Threatened 2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION Endemic to New Zealand. North and South Island.

HABITAT

Lowland to upland. In shady, damp and wet places, such as forest margins, scrub, stream and lake sides, moist pastures and tussockland, shrubland, rushland in seepage and near swamps.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (nonwetlands).

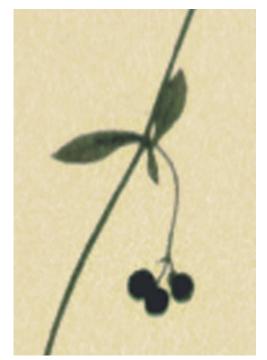
DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb with straggling, slender stems, 10-70cm long. Leaf stems 0.5-3mm long. Leaves 2-10mm long, 0.8-3mm wide, narrower elliptic or spoon-shaped, in whorls of 4. Flower stalks up to 20mm long. Flowers white, starry, 2-3mm diameter, 3-4 clumped in lead axils. Fruit small, round, dark brown.





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SIMILAR TAXA

Galium propinquum, G. palustre, G. perpusillum. G. trilobum has narrower, longer leaves and larger flowers on longer flower stems than G. propinquum. The introduced G. palustre has 5-30 flowers per head. G. perpusillum has narrower leaves, shorter stems and single flowers.

FLOWERING September to March

FLOWER COLOURS White

FRUITING November to May

LIFE CYCLE

Mericarps are dispersed by attachment and possibly also wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from cuttings and fresh seed but appears to be hard to maintain in cultivation.

THREATS

Not Threatened but exact distribution unclear as it is frequently confused with the introduced Galium palustre and G. debilis. Herbarium evidence suggests it has declined from a large part of its northern North Island range but is still common in large parts of southern North Island, and along the eastern side of South Island. There is some evidence that two forms of G. trilobum exist, and this complicates conservation assessments. The one described here, matches the widespread form, and is commonly found in grey scrub communities and wetlands in the drier eastern part of the country. The other is now scarce, seemingly preferring raupo reedlands, and is a larger plant, with longer primarily sublinear leaves.

ETYMOLOGY

galium: From the Greek galo 'milk', the leaves of Galium verum being used in the past to curdle milk **trilobum**: Three-lobed

WHERE TO BUY Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11: 285-309

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): Galium trilobum Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <u>https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/galium-trilobum/</u> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/galium-trilobum/