

Hydrocotyle bowlesioides

COMMON NAMES

water pennywort

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb forming large patches; stems slender, creeping, rooting at nodes, densely hairy. Tap-roots swollen, fleshy. Leaves simple, green, paler beneath, densely white hairy above and below, 0.2–5 cm diam., roundish reniform with a wide sinus at the base, the margins shallowly 5–7-lobed, the lobes obtusely triangular to crenate. Petiole slender, 0.2–20 cm long, with white hairs, especially above. Umbels simple, with 2–16 flowers, peduncles 3–15 mm long, axillary, slender. Flowers subsessile or very shortly pedicellate. Petals white with pink fringe on outer edge. Fruits minutely hispid or slightly granular, ellipsoid, about 1.5 mm wide, 1.1 mm long, styles persistent, stylopodium usually slightly depressed. Mature dry fruit has acute dorsal edges and raised ribs.

GENUS

Hydrocotyle

FAMILY

Araliaceae

AUTHORITY

Hydrocotyle bowlesioides Mathias et Constance

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1984

ORIGIN

Central and South America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown - soil or seed contaminant

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial creeping herb. Reproduction is by rhizomatous spread and subsequent detachment and by seed. Seed is probably long-lived. Dispersed in soil, and by seed which is probably mainly water.



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ETYMOLOGY

hydrocotyle: From the Greek hydor 'water' and cotyle 'cup', in reference to the cup-like hollow at the base of the leaf.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hydrocotyle-bowlesioides/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026