

# Hygrophila angustifolia

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Upright, leafy perennial with long narrow leaves and blue flowers produced in the leaf bases.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Blue

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect herb, decumbent with age, usually 50–100 cm high, mostly glabrous; branches 4-angled. Leaves linear to lanceolate, mostly 2.5–16 cm long, 2–8 mm wide, apex  $\pm$  obtuse, base attenuate, margins entire and sometimes undulate, glabrous or sparsely hairy;  $\pm$  sessile. Axillary clusters of 2–12-flowered; flowers sessile; bracts 2–7 mm long. Calyx 8–10 mm long. Corolla blue, mauve or more usually white with darker markings; tube 6–8 mm long; lobes 3–4 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Superficially similar to willow weeds (*Persicaria* spp.) but leaves are opposite, not alternately arranged.

## DISTRIBUTION

Only known from one site at Western Springs, Auckland, but a common plant in the aquarium trade.

## HABITAT

Still and slow flowing shallow water bodies.

## GENUS

*Hygrophila*

## FAMILY

Acanthaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Hygrophila angustifolia* R. Br.

## SYNONYMS

*Hygrophila salicifolia* Nees

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

Late summer (March)

## YEAR NATURALISED

2007

## ORIGIN

Northern Australia (W. Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales) and New Guinea

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental aquarium and pond plant.



## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Stem fragments in New Zealand

## ETYMOLOGY

**angustifolia:** From the Latin angustus 'narrow, constricted' and folius 'leaf', meaning narrow-leaved

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

New South Wales Flora Online (<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/>)

## ATTRIBUTION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hygrophila-angustifolia/>

## PDF DATE

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