Lemna aequinoctialis

COMMON NAME
tropical duckweed

FAMILY
Araceae

AUTHORITY
Lemna aequinoctialis Welw.

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Native

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2018 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser

BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Tiny, surface floating aquatic plant with bright green plate-like leaves (3 x 2 mm) that have a pale underside and one root per leaf.

DISTRIBUTION
Only collected once from Auckland Zoo.

HABITAT
Clear, still fertile water including, troughs, dams, drains and backwaters.

FEATURES
Platelets usually with bright green uppersides, paler undersides and one root per platelet. A characteristic of this species is the single root that arises from a winged sheath.

SIMILAR TAXA
The native Lemna disperma is very similar but the root does not arise from a winged sheath. Landoltia has two or more roots arising from each platelet. Watermeal (Wolffia australiana) is much smaller and lacking roots. Azolla is an aquatic fern and has scale like leaves that overlap.

FLOWERING
unknown

FLOWER COLOURS
Green

FRUITING
unknown

LIFE CYCLE
These tiny plants are readily spread by waterfowl.

YEAR NATURALISED
2010

ORIGIN
Throughout the warmer parts of the world, including northern Australia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Probably a contaminant of imported plant or animal
CONTROL TECHNIQUES
Difficult to control once established.

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

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

MORE INFORMATION