

# Mazus novaezeelandiae subsp. impolitus f. impolitus

## FAMILY

Mazaceae

## AUTHORITY

Mazus novaezeelandiae subsp. impolitus Heenan f. impolitus

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 38

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DP, RR

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Serious Decline

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island (Marlborough, Canterbury and Otago).

## HABITAT

*M. novaezeelandiae* subsp. *impolitus* prefers coastal sites, particularly damp hollows and sand flats, amongst sandy turf and coastal pasture species; but has also been found inland on river gravels in Otago. Swamp and stream margins, soggy ground, river flats beneath tawa and kahikatea.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A perennial, creeping herb forming compact, leafy rosettes, leaves spoon-shaped, dark green to yellow-green 20–75 mm long. The margins of the leaves may be pigmented brown. The erect inflorescence is often held well above the foliage and may bear from 1 to 5 *Mimulus*-like flowers, these are white with a yellow throat. It is distinguished from subsp. *novaezeelandiae* by its dull green leaves that are hairless or only sparsely hairy.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Mazus pumilio* which has blue or lilac flowers and a finely toothed leaf margin. This predominantly Australian species is known in New Zealand from only one site in Northland, but is now sold by many garden centres as *M. novaezeelandiae*.



Dwarf musk. Photographer: A. J. Townsend, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Wanaka. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

## FLOWERING

November

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## FRUITING

December–April

## THREATS

Very susceptible to disturbance, habitat clearance and modification including stock trampling.

## ETYMOLOGY

**mazus**: Tear (after protuberance on throat of flower)

**novaezeelandiae**: Of New Zealand

**impolitus**: Unpolished, matt

## Where To Buy

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (30 August 2003). For more information see Heenan (1998).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Heenan PB. 1998. *Mazus novaezeelandiae* (Scrophulariaceae): taxonomy, distribution, habitats, and conservation. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 36(3): 407–416. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1998.9512579>.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/mazus-novaezeelandiae-subsp-impolitus-f-impolitus/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/mazus-novaezeelandiae-subsp-impolitus-f-impolitus/>