

Moraea huttonii

COMMON NAMES

butterfly iris

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Evergreen perennial, with corms; leaves 60-120 cm, somewhat lax, undersurfaces dull, slightly grey-green and different from the shiny green of upper surfaces, marked mid-rib, leaf edges slightly rolled; flower stems erect, branched. The flowers are iris-like, yellow, with three larger outer petals with brown 'eyes' and nectar guides, and three smaller upright inner petals. Dry capsules shed winged seeds that disperse by wind or water.

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Yellow

GENUS

Moraea

FAMILY

Iridaceae

AUTHORITY

Moraea huttonii (Baker) Oberm.

SYNONYMS

Dietes huttonii;
Moraea baurii;
Moraea rivularis

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Oct-Nov (in NZ)

FRUITING

Capsules with winged seeds

YEAR NATURALISED

2018

ORIGIN

South Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental



Ripe dehiscing capsule, Garden plant, Virginia Heights, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 16/12/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Ripe dehiscing capsule, garden plant, Virginia Heights, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 16/12/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Self-established seedlings in driveway, up to 13 m from solitary planted specimen (Whanganui, Dec 2018)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Seed or division

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/moraea-huttonii/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026