

Myriophyllum votschii

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: Sp

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dioecious perennial terrestrial herb, stems prostrate (rarely erect, forming tight cushions to 70 mm high), branching freely, rooting at nodes, forming clumps to 100 mm in diameter, glabrous. Leaves all opposite, entire, obovoid, 1.8-3.5 × (0.5-)0.7-1.1 mm, ± planar or slightly concave on upper surface, convex below, spreading or slightly upward-curving, glabrous.. Hydathodes absent. Rarely, in inundated plants, submerged leaves are formed, which are linear, 2.0 × 0.2 mm. Inflorescence a terminal spike with the unisexual flowers borne in the axils of opposite upper leaves indistinguishable from lower (sterile) leaves. Male and female flowers apparently borne on separate plants. Bracteoles linear, 0.5-0.7 × 0.1-0.2 mm. Hydathodes 0. Male flowers 4-merous, sessile, usually in axils of the uppermost pair of leaves only. Sepals 0. Petals 4, green at first, becoming white with a dark reddish spot at tip (rarely, completely dark red), hooded, non-unguiculate, 1.5-1.8 × 0.7-1.0 mm, reflexed at anthesis. Stamens 8; filaments 0.2-0.3 mm long, elongating to 0.8-11.0 mm at anthesis; anthers yellow, oblong, 1.2-1.3 × 0.4 mm, 4-celled, non apiculate or very weakly apiculate. Styles 0. Ovary vestigial. Female flowers 4-merous, sessile, in axils of upper 4-8 pairs of leaves. Sepals, petals and stamens 0. Styles 4, ± sessile, stigmas white, fimbriate, capitate. Ovary green, shortly cylindrical, 0.8 × 0.6-0.8 mm, longitudinally channelled between styles, rounded opposite styles, otherwise smooth. Fruit black, depressed-globular, 0.9-1.0 × 1.1-1.4 mm, suture between mericarps buff coloured; mericarps separating at maturity. Mericarps planar on inner faces, outer face convex, smooth or very weakly punctate, sometimes with a faint median longitudinal ridge.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands

GENUS

Myriophyllum

FAMILY

Haloragaceae

AUTHORITY

Myriophyllum votschii Schindler

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



In dune lake turfs, Kai iwi Northland.
Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken:
03/05/2024, Licence: CC BY.



Myriophyllum votschii. Photographer: Lisa Forester, Licence: CC BY-SA.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and rooted pieces. must be kept moist. An interesting plant for a small pond or fish tank

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

myriophyllum: Many leaves

NVS CODE

MYRVOT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 14, c.21

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: Sp

2012 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Endangered | Qualifiers: Sp, DPR, DPS, DPT, EF, PF, RR, TL
Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the [“Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland”](#) Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NS, RR, Sp Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the [“Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025”](#) Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Orchard, A.E. 1979: *Myriophyllum* (Haloragaceae) in Australasia. 1. New Zealand: a revision of the genus and a synopsis of the family. *Brunonia* 2: 247-287.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2009). Description based on Orchard (1979)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myriophyllum-votschii/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026