

Pinguicula grandiflora

COMMON NAMES

Butterwort

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Small yellow-green coloured herb, with leaves lying close to the ground arising from a central point (like a dandelion), sticky to the touch, curled upwards at the margins, up to 8 cm long, flowers showy, purple or violet with a white mark on the throat up to 2 cm across and 3 cm long produced singly on stalk up to 20 cm long.

FLOWER COLOURS

Purple, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb with all leaves forming a basal rosette, all parts (except the corolla) clothed in sticky glandular hairs adapted to ensnare insects. Overwinters as a rootless bud. Leaves entire, sessile, margins involute, 2-8 cm long, ovate-oblong, yellow-green. Flower solitary on naked scape 3-20 cm long. Calyx lobes ovate or oblong, upper lip divided nearly to base. Corolla 15-20 x 25-30 mm, violet with large cuneate white patch at the mouth, lower lip broader than long, with shallow lobes, spur 10 mm directed backwards. Capsule subglobose, not seen in New Zealand material.

SIMILAR TAXA

No other butterworts or similar plants are known to be naturalised in New Zealand.

DISTRIBUTION

Known from one site on the Coromandel Peninsula; also in and close to Tongariro National Park.

HABITAT

Seepage and trackside drain in regenerating manuka scrub (Coromandel); peat bog with *Empodisma* and *Gleichenia* (Tongariro Nat. Park).

GENUS

Pinguicula

FAMILY

Lentibulariaceae

AUTHORITY

Pinguicula grandiflora Lam.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November to January

FRUITING

N/A



YEAR NATURALISED

2008

ORIGIN

Western Europe

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental plant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Reproduces by clonal spread after deliberate planting.

ETYMOLOGY

grandiflora: Large flowered

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Clapham, A.R.; Tutin, T.G.; Warburg, E.F. (1962). Flora of the British Isles. Cambridge University Press, Second Edition. 1269pp.

ATTRIBUTION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pinguicula-grandiflora/>

PDF DATE

08 June 2026