

Polygonum aviculare

COMMON NAMES

wireweed

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Stems bluish-green, leafy, wiry, extending 10 to 60 cm in all directions from the small taproot and forming adense mat. each joint or node covered with a thin papery sheath. Leaves bluish-green, alternate, oblong, narrowed at the base, pointed at tip. Flowers very small, yellow or white, borne in clusters in the leaf axils (Wax, Fawcett and Isely 1981).

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

SIMILAR TAXA

Polygonum arenastrum

GENUS

Polygonum

FAMILY

Polygonaceae

AUTHORITY

Polygonum aviculare L.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1853

ORIGIN

Europe

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Seeds small, slender, reddish-brown, triangular (Wax, Fawcett and Isely 1981).

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

aviculare: Small bird



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NVS CODE

POLAVI

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/polygonum-aviculare/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026