

Potamogeton cheesemanii

COMMON NAME

red pondweed

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Potamogetonaceae

AUTHORITY

Potamogeton cheesemanii A.Benn.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

NVS CODE

POTCHE

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands. Also Australia.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane - but mostly found in coastal and lowland areas. A common plant of ponds, lake margins and slowly flowing streams. Also colonising roadside ditches. rarely found in muddy hollows within forest.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

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



Potamogeton cheesemanii. Photographer: Lisa Forester, Licence: CC BY-SA.



Potamogeton cheesemanii. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Aquatic, submerged or floating, rhizomatous sparsely branched perennial herb. Rhizomes rooting at nodes and producing mostly simple leafy branches; these ultimately water surface. Stipules membranous, free, open. Leaves dimorphic. Submersed leaves usually rather distant, usually shortly petiolate; lamina c. 40–100 × 5–15 mm, narrowly elliptic, entire, subacute, delicate, ± translucent, longitudinal nerves c. 5–11, irregularly joined by cross veins. Floating leaves often long-petiolate; lamina 20–40 × 10–25 mm, broad oblong-oval, entire, usually quite obtuse, firm and opaque, longitudinal nerves 10–15, laterals emerging from petiole rather than from midrib. Inflorescence a densely flowered spike, 10–25 mm long. Peduncles in axils of floating leaves, stout, erect, usually projecting above surface of water at flower, submersed in fruit. Achene c. 2.5 × 1.5 mm, green, green-brown or brown, moderately flattened with rather strongly 3-ridged keel and short straight beak.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from *Potamogeton suboblongus* by the strongly dimorphic foliage (i.e. clear distinction between submerged and emergent leaves), by the narrowly elliptic, ± translucent submerged leaves; floating leaves which are mostly broad-oval, with obtuse apices, and which have usually 6 or less (rarely an unequal higher number) nerves on either side of midrib; and by the green, green-brown or brown, flattened achenes which are 3-keeled when dry. In its submerged state *Potamogeton cheesemanii* could be confused with *P. ochreatus* from which it differs by non-fibrous stipules, and submerged and emergent elliptic to broadly oval leaves with well separated rather than closely set longitudinal nerves.

FLOWERING

November - March

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Red/Pink

FRUITING

December - March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from rooted pieces and fresh seed, An attractive plant for a large pond or similar water body but inclined to become aggressive in fertile waters.

ETYMOLOGY

potamogeton: River dweller

cheesemanii: Named after Thomas Frederick Cheeseman (1846 - 15 October 1923) who was a New Zealand botanist and naturalist who, in 1906, produced *The Manual of the New Zealand Flora*.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (16 February 2012). Description adapted from Moore & Edgar (1970)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Potamogeton cheesemanii* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/potamogeton-cheesemanii/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/potamogeton-cheesemanii/>