

Ranunculus trichophyllus

COMMON NAMES

water buttercup

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Submerged perennial plant with creeping rhizomes and long leafy stems. The leaves are usually 3 to 6 cm long, forked and ending in threadlike segments. The white 5-petalled flowers with a yellow centre are held above the water surface.

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Aquatic perennial, rarely terrestrial; roots all fibrous. Rhizome creeping. Stems slender to stout, prostrate or ascending, up to 1-(2)m long often rooting at the nodes. Lvs divided into many filiform segments, glabrous but for a few short hairs at segment tips, (1)-3-6-(8) cm long; segments narrowly linear in terrestrial plants; petiole (2)-5-30 mm long. Fls solitary, 8-15 mm diam. Pedicels terete, glabrous, (2)-3-6-(8) cm long. Sepals 5, bluish near tip, reflexed 2.5-4 mm long. Petals 5, white with yellow base, 6-8 x c. 4mm long; nectary single, 0.5-1mm from petal base, lunate. Receptacle usually with a few sparse hairs at base, elongating slightly at fruiting. Achenes 30-60, glabrous, ovoid, slightly flattened, transversely rugose; body 1.5-2 mm long; beak straight, c. 0.5 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*) and egeria (*Egeria densa*) have similar flowers. Differs from fanwort in that the leaves are not fan-shaped and alternately rather than oppositely arranged. Differs from egeria in that the leaves are finely divided, forked and not arranged in whorls.

DISTRIBUTION

Widely naturalised, common in many regions but apparently absent in Northland and very rare in Westland. Becoming rare in northern New Zealand south to the volcanic plateau where it is still common.

HABITAT

Moderately fast flowing to still water bodies.

GENUS

Ranunculus

FAMILY

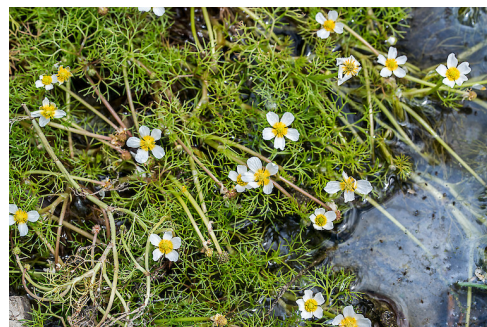
Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY

Ranunculus trichophyllus Chaix



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SYNONYMS

R. fluitans Lam was applied to this plant in NZ. However *R. fluitans* has longer leaves and often larger flowers (Johnson and Brooke 1989).

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

(October) December - February (April)

FRUITING

(Oct)-Dec-Feb-(Apr)

YEAR NATURALISED

1906

ORIGIN

Temperate Northern Hemisphere and Australia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Possibly naturally introduced from Australia by water fowl. Not known from the international aquarium or pond trade (Kasselman 2003).

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not usually controlled in New Zealand, but may be controlled manually, or mechanically.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Spreads by seeds or stem fragments. Bird dispersed seed.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

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

ETYMOLOGY

ranunculus: From the Latin 'rana' frog, meaning little frog and probably refers to the plants typical marshy habit where frogs abound

NVS CODE

RANTRI

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Webb et al. (1988). Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](#) licence.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ranunculus-trichophyllus/>

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