

Rorippa sylvestris

COMMON NAME

creeping yellow cress

SYNONYMS

Tall herb, up to 70 cm tall, with various shaped leaves, lobed, with 2 to 5 pairs of leaflets, the uppermost with very narrow segments with coarsely toothed margins, flowers are yellow c. 5 mm across in large flower heads at the top of the stem.

FAMILY

Brassicaceae

AUTHORITY

Rorippa sylvestris (L.) Besser

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

RORSYL

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

DISTRIBUTION

Locally common in both islands.

HABITAT

Margins of water bodies and cultivation and wet pasture weed.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

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

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Glabrous perennial rhizomatous herb. Stems erect, often flexuous, 30-70 cm tall. Lvs variable in shape; margins toothed. Rosette lvs petiolate, auriculate at base, deeply pinnatifid, 4-10-(25) × 2-4 cm. Middle and upper lvs smaller, 1-2-pinnatifid, linear to ovate; lobes narrow-lanceolate to linear, entire or toothed; basal auricles present. Pedicels erecto-patent at flowering, spreading at fruiting, 5-15 mm long. Sepals 2-2.5 mm long. Petals yellow, (3)-4-5 mm long. Siliqua glabrous, linear, curved, 10-15 × 1-1.5 mm, but often not or poorly developed; valves with median vein weak or 0; style c. 0.5 mm long. Seeds brown, c. 0.6 mm long, finely colliculate, in 2 rows per locule.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to the introduced tall yellow cress (*R. amphibia*) and the native poniu (*R. palustris*) but petals being > 2x length of the petals (unlike poniu) and fruit being sausage shaped rather than oval with peduncles < 2x the length of the fruit (unlike tall yellow cress).

FLOWERING

October to March

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

November to March



LIFE CYCLE

Seed and rhizomes dispersed by water or contaminated machinery.

YEAR NATURALISED

1952

ORIGIN

Temperate Eurasia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown, seed or soil contaminant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

ETYMOLOGY

rorippa: A latinized form of Rorippen, a Saxon vernacular name used by Euricius Cordus

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Webb et al. (1988).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. (1988). Flora of New Zealand Volume 4: Naturalised pteridophytes, gymnosperms, dicotyledons. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rorippa-sylvestris/>