

Rumex acetosella

COMMON NAME

sheep's sorrel

FAMILY

Polygonaceae

AUTHORITY

Rumex acetosella L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

RUMACE

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

SIMILAR TAXA

Roots and rootstocks extensive but rather shallow. Stems 15 to 45 cm high, slender, upright, branched at top. Several stems may arise from 1 crown. Leaves are arrow-shaped, 2.5 to 7.5 cm long, thick, smooth, acid to the taste. Early growth consists of a rosette of basal leaves. Flowers borne on raceme near top of plant. Male and female flowers borne on different plants. (Wax, Fawcett and Isely 1981).

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

YEAR NATURALISED

1867

ORIGIN

Europe

ETYMOLOGY

rumex: Sorrel

acetosella: From the Latin acetum 'vinegar' and the suffix -osum indicating an abundance of that noun, refers to the oxalic acid in Rumex acetosella

Seed

Seeds, 3-sided, reddish-brown, shiny. Hull reddish-brown, rough, often adhering to the seed. (Wax, Fawcett and Isely 1981).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rumex-acetosella/>



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