

Typha orientalis

COMMON NAME

raupō, bullrush

SYNONYMS

Typha muelleri Rohrb.

FAMILY

Typhaceae

AUTHORITY

Typha orientalis C.Presl

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

NVS CODE

TYPORI

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Kermadec Islands group (Raoul Island only), North and South Islands. Deliberately naturalised on the Chatham Islands by Maori. Present also in Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia and the wider western Pacific

HABITAT

Coastal to lowland in fertile wetlands, on the margins of ponds, lakes, slow flowing streams, and rivers. Less frequently found on the margins of low moor bogs. Occasionally found in muddy ground within industrial areas.



Whangapoua, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Pauatahanui. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

FEATURES

Stout summer green, rhizomatous, colonial, usually emergent perennial herb up to 3 m tall. Rhizome to 40 mm diameter, fleshy, covered in numerous scale leaves, usually submerged in water or mud. Leaf-sheath often > 300 mm long; 1-3 m long, 10-30 mm diameter, dull green to grey-green, lamina linear-lanceolate to lanceolate, more or less plano-convex at base, pith spongy. Peduncle usually < leaves, up to 15 mm diameter. Inflorescence 300-500 mm long, the female part up to 25 mm diameter, the male portion narrower, and either continuous with or more or less separated from the female. Bracteoles in male portion more numerous than stamens, more or less equal to anthers, proximally narrow-linear, broader at tip and there variously lacinate, arising directly on axis and remaining more or less curled up after flowers fall. Male flower sessile to subsessile filaments at first shorter than anther-width, elongating later; anthers 1-3, tipped with blunt extension of connective; pollen clear yellow, grains single. Bracteoles in female part very few, absent from many flowers, more or less equal to gynophore hairs, filiform except for a few-celled expansion at apex. Female flowers much smaller than male, several grouped on proximal part of a short compound pedicel. Ovary at flower almost sessile, narrow-elliptic; style long, slender; stigma broader, spatulate, more or less concave; gynophore hairs extremely numerous, barely reaching base of stigma, stiff, filiform, very narrowly clavate at apex. Gynophore elongating at fruit 1-2 times style-length, hairs becoming confined to proximal third of gynophore and in groups or more or less whorled; persistent stigmas brown. Carpodia oblong-obovate, apices just projecting between the hairs. Seed 1.2 mm long, cuneate at base, truncate at apex, yellow.

SIMILAR TAXA

Typha latifolia L. has been found in cultivation in New Zealand it differs from *T. orientalis* by its somewhat wider, flat, pale greyish-green leaves, very dark brown to black erect flower spikes, and one-seeded fruits up to 10 mm long, each with hairs rising near the base, and chromosome number ($2n = 30$ cf. $2n = 60$). *Typha domingensis* Pers. has also been reported from New Zealand. It differs from *T. orientalis* by its narrower leaves and much narrower inflorescences and by its chromosome number ($2n = 30$ cf. $2n = 60$).

FLOWERING

December - February

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

March - June

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and division of established plants. Excellent in large ponds and dams but regarded by some as an aggressive weed.

ETYMOLOGY

typha: From the Greek name for this plant

orientalis: From the Latin *orientale*, meaning 'eastern' but sometimes also translated as 'from the Orient'.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Mason, R., Moar, N.T. 1951. *Typha* in N.Z. Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin, 24: 6-9

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/typha-orientalis/>