

# Utricularia geminiscapa

## COMMON NAMES

bladderwort

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Spawning submerged plant often floating just under the waters surface, with finely divided thread-like leaves with tiny round bladders (often black).

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial, free-floating aquatic, often smothering other submerged plants or floating just under the waters surface. Stolons filiform, sparingly branched; stems up to 60 cm long, c. 0.5 mm diam., terete, glabrous, internodes

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Utricularia australis* (rare native species mostly in northern North Island) is superficially similar and at one time *U. geminiscapa* was mistakenly known as this species. The distribution ranges of these species do not currently overlap.

## DISTRIBUTION

Restricted to Westland (Westport to Haast).

## HABITAT

Colonises acidic shallow water in lowland bogs, fens and pakihi.

## GENUS

*Utricularia*

## FAMILY

Lentibulariaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Utricularia geminiscapa* Benj.

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

Summer to autumn

## FRUITING

Summer to autumn

## YEAR NATURALISED

1975



## ORIGIN

North-eastern USA and Canada

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Likely to be accidental, possibly contaminated mining machinery

## TOLERANCES

Survives only in very wet places.

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not usually controlled in New Zealand.

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Water fowl spread seed. Accidental spread.

## ETYMOLOGY

**utricularia:** A small bladder

## NVS CODE

UTRGEM

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Champion et al (2012). Freshwater Pests of New Zealand. NIWA publication.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/management-tools/identification-guides-and-fact-sheets/freshwater-pest-species>.

Heenan, P.B.; de Lange, P.J.; Knightsbridge, P.I. (2004). *Utricularia geminiscapa* (Lentibulariaceae), a naturalised aquatic bladderwort in the South Island, New Zealand. NZJ Bot 24: 247-251.

Salmon, B. (2001). Carnivorous plants of New Zealand. Ecosphere Publications, Auckland. 303 pp.

## ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/utricularia-geminiscapa/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026