

# Viola betonicifolia

## COMMON NAMES

arrowhead violet, arrow-leaved violet

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Herbaceous perennial with leafy rosette & woody rootstock; leaves conspicuously hastate; stems to 30 cm tall; flowers purple or white.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

## SIMILAR TAXA

Other small *Viola* species such as *V. arvensis* and *A. tricolor*, but easily distinguished by its hastate leaves.

## HABITAT

In Whanganui, it has been a long-persistent perennial in cultivated pots of bulbs, defying all attempts to eradicate it manually; it spreads by seed to adjoining pots.

## GENUS

*Viola*

## FAMILY

Violaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Viola betonicifolia* Sm.

## SYNONYMS

*Viola longiscapa* (DC.) G.Don

*V. phyteumifolia* G.Don.

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## YEAR NATURALISED

2007

## ORIGIN

Australia; also India, Pakistan, SE Asia, Papua New Guinea

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Self-establishes from seed.



In pot, self-sown among *Nerine* bulbs; Bastia Hill, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 27/01/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## ETYMOLOGY

**viola:** The Latin name for violet

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/viola-betonicifolia/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026