

Wurmbea stricta

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Wurmbea stricta is a deciduous, winter-growing geophyte reaching up to 0.6 m high. The subterranean storage organ is a deep-seated, irregularly shaped corm surrounded by dark brown membranous outer tunics, and produces three narrow, very straight, erect or suberect, dark green leaves that resemble knitting needles. Its striking star-shaped flowers are produced alternately along an elongated spike, the tepals varying in colour from pure white to pale pink. Each tepal has a small claw at the base and two prominent, deep pink glands that produce nectar. Vast quantities of seed are produced in attractive erect, narrowly egg-shaped capsules. <http://www.plantzafrica.com/plantwxyz/wurmbeastricta.htm>

DISTRIBUTION

Local garden escape (e.g. into gravel driveway)

HABITAT

Is said to prefer wet sites though grows in gravel over hard clay pan (seasonally wet) in New Zealand.

GENUS

Wurmbea

FAMILY

Colchicaceae

AUTHORITY

Wurmbea stricta (Burm.f.) J.C.Manning & Vinn.

SYNONYMS

Onixotis stricta, Onixotis triquetra, Dipidax triquetra,

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

2015

ORIGIN

northwest and southwest Cape, South Africa



Wurmbea stricta (ex. Onixotis, Dipidax) flower; 115 Mt View Rd, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 25/09/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Wurmbea stricta (ex. Onixotis, Dipidax) young fruit; 115 Mt View Rd, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 25/09/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ETYMOLOGY

wurmbea: The genus *Wurmbea* is named after Christoph Carl Friedrich von Wurmbe (1742 - 1781), a German botanist who emigrated to Jakarta.

stricta: From the Latin *strictus* 'upright, stiff'

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Colin Ogle for NZPCN, 5 November 2015

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/wurmbea-stricta/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026