

Potamogeton ochreatus

COMMON NAMES

blunt pondweed

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Potamogetonaceae

AUTHORITY

Potamogeton ochreatus Raoul

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

NVS CODE

POTOCH

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North, South, Auckland Islands. Also Australia and South-East Asia

HABITAT

Coastal to lowland in slow moving waters such as rivers, streams, also found in lakes and ponds, especially near lake outlets

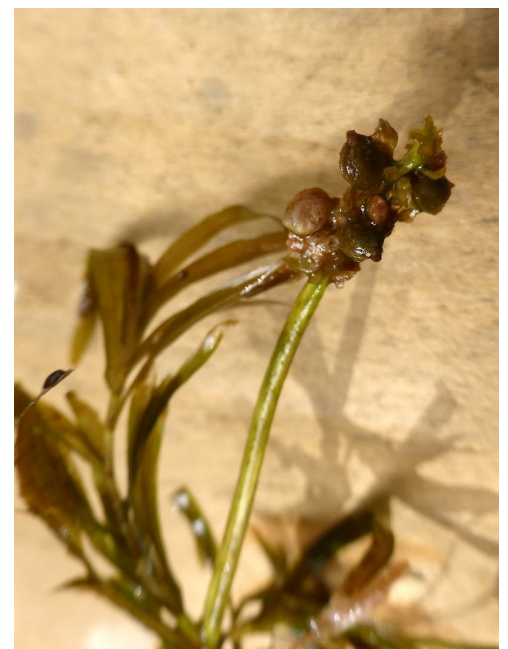
WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).



Potamogeton ochreatus. Photographer: Rohan Wells, Licence: All rights reserved.



fruits, Bushy Park wetland, Wanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 01/03/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Aquatic, submerged, rhizomatous perennial herb. Rhizome short, invested with closely set fibrous stipules and roots. Branches erect, at first simple bearing long leaves, then branching up to eight times at leaf axils, branchlets short, produced in spring and elongating in autumn, sometimes rooting from nodes. Stipules to 20 mm long, free, open, obtuse, disintegrating into fibres with age at older nodes (fibres derived from close-set nerves). Leaves all submersed, sessile; lamina 15–100 × 2–5 mm, entire, linear-oblong, obtuse to slightly emarginate, only slightly narrowed to base, membranous, longitudinal nerves 8, fine and close, one in each half usually stronger than the rest. Inflorescence a densely flowered spike up to 15 mm long. Peduncles 20–40 mm long, simple, slender, arising from axils of upper leaves within the short branchlets. Achenes c.3.0 × 2.5 mm, flattened on sides, keel ± 3-ridged, beak rather well-developed, curved.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from all other Potamogeton in New Zealand, except *P. crispus* by the grass-like, parallel-sided submerged and emergent leaves, bearing numerous, close set, fine longitudinal nerves (these occasionally obscure); and by the fibrous stipules. The naturalised *Potamogeton crispus* differs by having only submersed, oblong leaves with crimped margins and bearing 3-5 longitudinal nerves.

FLOWERING

November - April

FRUITING

December - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown in ponds and slow-flowing streams. Also an excellent plant for an indoor aquarium. Sometimes can become invasive.

ETYMOLOGY

potamogeton: River dweller

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (16 February 2012). Description adapted from Moore & Edgar (1970)

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REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): Potamogeton ochreatus Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/potamogeton-ochreatus/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/potamogeton-ochreatus/>

PDF DATE

17 September 2024