

Ludwigia peploides subsp. montevidensis

COMMON NAME

Water primrose

FAMILY

Onagraceae

AUTHORITY

Ludwigia peploides subsp. *montevidensis* (Spreng.) P.H.Raven

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

LUDPSM

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Sprawling emergent perennial herb, characterised by rapid growth that can smother other vegetation. Primrose willow has branched stems with roots at the nodes, either attached to soil or hanging in the water. The leaves are alternate and obtuse, and up to 6 cm long. Their upper surfaces are glossy and they taper into petioles that are up to 2.8 cm long, with two dark green, swollen, rounded stipules at the base. The flowers are up to 2 cm, bright yellow, and arise on stalks from the leaf axils.

DISTRIBUTION

Locally naturalised in the North Island (Northland, Auckland, Waikato and Manawatu).

HABITAT

Still and slow flowing shallow water bodies.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

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

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Herb, forming large patches; stems creeping or floating, rooting at nodes, with pneumatophores sometimes present below water; flowering stems ascending, with patent hairs or more regularly glabrate. Lvs alternate; petiole 0.5-3 cm long, glabrous or somewhat hairy. Lamina 2-8 X 0.7-3 cm, elliptic, oblanceolate or obovate, glabrous except for midrib near base; base cuneate to attenuate; apex obtuse to rounded. Fls solitary, 4-5-merous; pedicels 1.5-4.5 cm long at anthesis, generally with patent hairs. Sepals 6-8 mm long, narrow-triangular or lanceolate-oblong, scarcely accrescent; apex emarginate. Petals 1.5-1.7 mm long, bright yellow. Stamens 8 or 10; filaments unequal. Style c. 4 mm long, stout, hairy. Stamina slightly 4-lobed. Capsule 2-2.7 cm long, narrow-cylindrical, ribbed, woody, glabrous or glabrate. Seeds firmly embedded in cubes of woody endocarp c. 1.5 mm thick, uniseriate in each locule.

SIMILAR TAXA

Other *Ludwigia* species and alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*). All these plants have opposite rather than alternate leaves.



Ludwigia peploides. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Ludwigia peploides. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FLOWERING

November to February

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

LIFE CYCLE

Stem fragments and seed.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Native of South America and eastern states of Australia

YEAR NATURALISED

1933

ORIGIN

Native of South America and eastern states of Australia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental pond plant.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Generally not controlled in New Zealand, but problematic in Europe/North America. Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Webb et. al., 1988.

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>.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

Aston, H (1977). Aquatic plants of Australia. Melbourne University Press, 367PP.; Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

Coffey BT, Clayton JS (1988). New Zealand water plants: a guide to plants found in New Zealand freshwaters. Ruakura Agricultural Centre. 65pp.

DiTomaso JM, EA Healy (2003). Aquatic and riparian weeds of the west. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 3421, 462pp.

WSDE (2001). An aquatic plant identification manual for Washington's freshwater plants. Washington State Department of Ecology, 195pp.

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. (1988). Flora of New Zealand Volume 4: Naturalised pteridophytes, gymnosperms, dicotyledons. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch. 1365 pp.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ludwigia-peploides-subsp-montevidensis/>