Nasturtium microphyllum

COMMON NAMES
one-rowed watercress

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION
A bright green, robust, creeping or upright herb that has small white flowers in spring through summer, and is found along the margins of slow flowing shallow waters. Leaves have a distinctive peppery smell when crushed.

FLOWER COLOURS
White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Perennial stoloniferous herb. Stems trailing, glabrous, to several m long. Leaves glabrous, all similar, but becoming smaller near inflorescence. Pinnate, petiolate, 2-10-(25) x 1-5 cm; basal auricles very small; leaflets rounded, ovate; margins entire or sinuate. Pedicels glabrous, slender, erecto-patent, spreading to deflexed at fruiting, (8)-12-20-(30) mm long. Sepals 2.5-3.5 x 1 mm. Petals white, (4)-5-6 x 1.5-2.5 mm. Silique glabrous, narrow-oblong to linear, curved, (10)-15-25-(30) x c.1.5 mm; valves with distinct midrib, at least below; style c. 1 mm long. Seeds in ± 1 row per locule, brown, c. 1mm long, coarsely reticulate with 100-150 polygonal depressions per face.

SIMILAR TAXA
Very similar to N. officinale, but the flowers of N. microphyllum are larger, capsules are longer and more slender, and the seeds are in one row and with more finely pitted surfaces. The leaves of N. microphyllum turn brown/purple in autumn/winter.

DISTRIBUTION
Common throughout New Zealand.

HABITAT
Margins of slow moving rivers, streams, ditches and drains.

GENUS
Nasturtium

FAMILY
Brassicaceae

AUTHORITY
Nasturtium microphyllum Boenn. ex Rchb.

SYNONYMS
Rorippa microphylla (Boenn.) N. Hylander

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
August - June

FRUITING
Summer-autumn

YEAR NATURALISED
1954

ORIGIN
Europe

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Culinary herb.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Stem fragmentation and seed.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
OBL: Obligate Wetland
Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY
microphyllum: Small leaf

NVS CODE
NASMIC

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.
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.
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.

ATTRIBUTION
Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Webb et al. (1988). Some of this factsheet information is derived from Flora of New Zealand Online and is used under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand licence.

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/nasturtium-microphyllum/

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