

Oxalis corniculata subsp. corniculata

COMMON NAMES

creeping woodsorrel, horned oxalis

FAMILY

Oxalidaceae

AUTHORITY

Oxalis corniculata L. subsp. *corniculata*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

OXACOR

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Gardens, mostly in deeper soils and more shaded sites than var. *atropurpurea*.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Prostrate to erect to almost semi-scrambling; lacking bulbs, has a wiry tap root; occasionally rooting at nodes, foliage and stems green, leaves glabrous or nearly so above, capsule hairs dense and touching, eglandular; seed 1.0-1.3 mm long, usually with 8-11 deep, ± acute ridges.

SIMILAR TAXA

Oxalis corniculata var. *atropurpurea* is included in var. *corniculata* by many authorities. In NZ the two are often easy to distinguish by var. *atropurpurea* having purple foliage and stems, a thicker tap-root, and it grows in more arid sites. *O. thompsoniae* (q.v.) resembles var. *corniculata* but its capsules have dense retrorse pubescence overtopped by long, patent, septate hairs; its seeds are smooth or nearly so rather than ribbed.

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

YEAR NATURALISED

1944

ORIGIN

Almost cosmopolitan

ETYMOLOGY

oxalis: From the Greek word *oxus* meaning acid or sharp



Oxalis corniculata. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Wanganui. Jul 2007. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet amended for NZPCN by C.C. Ogle, 12 Sept. 2014. Description adapted from Allan (1961).
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REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988. Flora of New Zealand Volume IV, Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons: 916.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/oxalis-corniculata-subsp-corniculata/>

PDF DATE

27 September 2024