



## *Callitriche muelleri*

### **Common Name(s):**

Mueller's starwort

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

Not Threatened

### **Distribution:**

Indigenous. In New Zealand known from the Kermadec, Three Kings, North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands. Also in Australia.

### **Habitat:**

Coastal to montane in damp, muddy ground or in shallow seasonal pools, along lake and stream sides. Often in dense forest.

### **Features:**

Short-lived perennial to annual herb forming matted patches. Stems filiform, much-branched, up to 200 mm long when submerged usually much less above water. Leaves on filiform petioles up to 3 mm long; lamina 2-5 x 1-5 mm, bright green, rhomboid to suborbicular, membranous, apex acute, cuneately narrowed to base, margins usually with 1-2 prominent teeth. Flowers in axils, with male and females together or solitary; shortly pedunculate, ebracteate; stamens and styles very short. mericarp obovate, laterally compressed, 1.0-1.3 mm long; surfaces dull, reticulate or with a raised central part in each cell, body red-brown, dark red-brown or dark brown or light brown to grey-brown, with a pale orange-yellow to light orange-yellow wing.

### **Flowering:**

October - December

### **Fruiting:**

November - March

### **Threats:**

Not Threatened

### **References and further reading:**

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1580](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1580)



**Caption:** Coromandel, November

**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth



**Caption:** Callitriche muelleri

**Photographer:** Peter de Lange, 25 Feb 2007, Auckland Zoo (wild)