



Utricularia australis

Common Name(s):

yellow bladderwort

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Critical

Distribution:

Indigenous. In New Zealand known only from the North Island, from Te Pahi to Lake Taupo, and near Paekakariki. Also present in Australia and Europe.

Habitat:

Coastal to lowland. Peat lakes, peaty pools and slow-moving streams draining peat bogs. Often found floating near or amongst spikerush (*Eleocharis sphacelata* R.Br.). *U. australis* appears to prefer shallow, still water, in sunny situations with little or no competition from other submerged aquatic plants.

Features*:

Wholly submerged, floating carnivorous aquatic plants dying down to turions (resting buds) in winter. Stems green to greenish-yellow, 400 mm or more long, filiform, sparingly branched. Leaves submerged, numerous, green to greenish-yellow, multifid 30-40 mm long, segments capillary up to 10 mm long. Bladders numerous and conspicuous, 1-4 mm long when mature, obliquely ovoid, mouth with 2 long setae, whole structure coloured dark blue to purple when mature and attached by short stalk near base of leaf segments. Inflorescence rarely seen, when present borne on a dark-green 2-4(-5)-flowered scape up to 170 mm long, this broad at base and tapering. Calyx lobes oblong to elliptic. Flowers dark yellow sometimes with a dark orange blotch on palate. Corolla upper lip 3-lobed, lower entire, 7-9 mm wide, broad, palate protruded; spur short, obtuse. Capsule 1.5-2 mm diameter, globose. Seeds not known in New Zealand.

Flowering:

Flowers, December-March(-April), though some populations may never flower.

Threats:

Now seriously at risk throughout most of its northern North Island range through competition from *Utricularia gibba* which occupies the same habitat and has a more aggressive growth form and also by other introduced aquatic weeds. It is also vulnerable to habitat loss through modification and drainage. There is some evidence which suggests it is selectively browsed by Canadian Geese and Black Swans

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2008). Description based on Salmon (2001), live and herbarium specimens - see also de Lange et al. (2010).

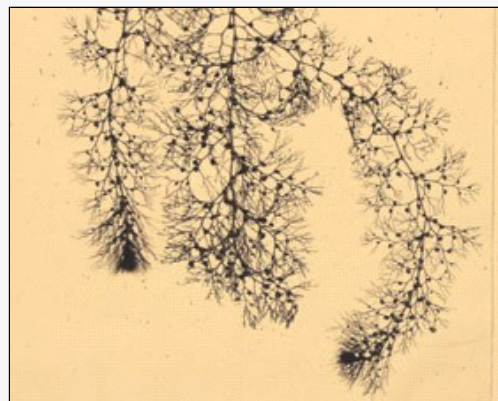
References and further reading:

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.

Salmon, B. 2001: Carnivorous plants of New Zealand. Ecosphere Publications, Manurewa.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=212



Caption: *Utricularia australis* specimen

Photographer: Andrew Townsend, Locality not specified



Caption: *Utricularia australis* close up of bladders and new growth

Photographer: Peter de Lange, December 1986, Opuatia Wetlands

Fruiting:

Seed has not yet been seen in New Zealand plants.