



## *Ruppia megacarpa*

### Common Name(s):

horses mane weed, lakeweed

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Indigenous. North, South and Chatham Islands. Present in Australia

### Habitat:

Saline ponds, lagoons and slow flowing brackish streams. Predominantly coastal but occasionally extending inland

### Features\*:

Rhizome undistinguished; stems rather long usually with abundant zigzag branching. Leaves (40–)100–150(–200) × (0.2–)0.4–0.5(–0.7) mm, bright to olive green, almost filiform but broad-oblong in cross-section; apex bidentate, often most minutely denticulate; sheath (10–)15–25(–40) mm long, auriculate. Peduncles to 0.3 m long, usually reddish, scarcely thicker below flowers, becoming spirally coiled as fruit matures. Flowers protandrous; carpels 4, occasionally 5–6 in upper flower. Podogynes stout, tapering towards base. Achenes 40–45(–50) mm long, gibbous, olive-green, sometimes red-punctate; mesocarp thick; endocarp tuberculate, black, with 2 triangular apertures opposite to and about on level of top of operculum; beak c.1.3 mm long.

### Flowering:

October - February

### Fruiting:

November - April

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 2 March 2011. Description adapted from Moore & Edgar (1970).

### References and further reading:

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand Vol. II. Wellington, Government Printer.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=2242](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2242)



**Caption:** *Ruppia megacarpa*  
**Photographer:** Rohan Wells, NIWA



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