



Ruppia polycarpa

Common Name(s):

horses mane weed, lakeweed

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

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

Habitat:

Saline ponds, lagoons, brackish streams, slow flowing fresh water streams and fresh water lakes from sea level to 700 m a.s.l.

Features*:

Rhizome prominent, and either much branched and congested giving rise to short stems and long leaves in dense grass-like mats or less closely branched with longer, sparsely branched stems. Leaves c.50–300 × 0.3–0.4 mm, dark green, almost filiform and only slightly flattened; apex obtuse, often most minutely denticulate; sheath (10–)25–35–50 mm long, auricles narrow. Peduncles to 0.5 m long, usually conspicuously thicker just below flowers, becoming spirally coiled as fruit matures. Flowers protandrous; carpels (5–)8(–16). Podogynes slender. Achenes (1.7–)2(–2.7) mm long, asymmetric, brown; mesocarp thin; endocarp smooth, black, with 2 longitudinal slits opposite to and about on level of top of operculum; beak 0.2–0.3 mm long.

Flowering:

October - February

Fruiting:

October - May

Threats:

Not Threatened

***Attribution:**

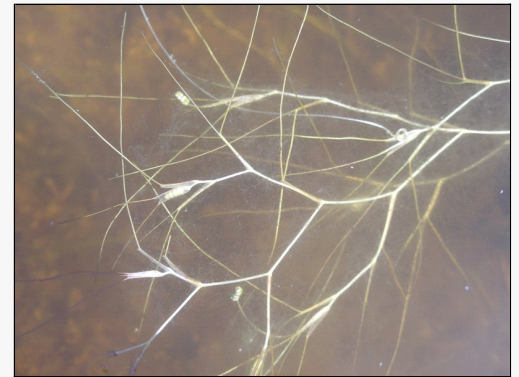
Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 2 March 2011. Description adapted from Moore & Edgar (1970).

References and further reading:

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

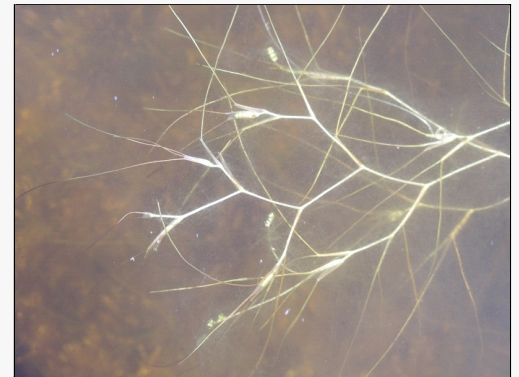
For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2243



Caption: Kaingaroa, Chatham Islands

Photographer: John Sawyer



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