



Sparganium subglobosum

Common Name(s):

burr-reed, maru

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. North and South Islands. Present throughout the North Island though often scarce over large parts of this range. In the South Island very uncommon, known from Nelson, Marlborough, north Westland and from the Canterbury Plains. Also in Australia.

Habitat:

Coastal to lowland (up to 400 m a.s.l.). Usually an emergent in shallow water, often on the margins of ponds, lakes and slow flowing streams. Also found in fens, and within the lagg zone of acidic bog systems. Usually preferring open sites, though sometimes found under Willows (*Salix L. spp.*) in moderately heavy shade.

Features*:

Glabrous, summer-green, rhizomatous, perennial herb of aquatic or fertile swamps. Rhizomes ascending, long and slender. Stems usually partially submerged in water, silt, mud or peat. Plants at flowering up to 1 m tall. Leaves most arising from base, somewhat spongy to firmly fleshy; 0.3-1 m tall, up to 10 mm wide, more or less erect; sheathing base channelled; lamina dark green, green to yellow green, linear to narrow linear, deltoid to subrhomboid in cross-section, longitudinal nerves distinct; incomplete cross walls occasionally evident apex obtuse to subacute. Peduncle up to 2 mm diameter, usually shorter than leaves; lower bracts foliaceous, long, often with basal third to one half clasping peduncle. Inflorescence simple or sparingly branched; main axis bearing up to 20 globose capitula; lower 1-6 female, rest male; lateral axis often bearing only male capitula, sometimes with up to 2 female capitula below; capitula sessile and either strictly axillary or without bracts. Flowers white. Male capitula up to 15 mm diameter, flowers numerous; stamens 3 mm long, filaments much > perianth; anthers conspicuous, white, oblong, basifixed, up to 3 times as long as broad. Female capitula to 18 mm diameter, flowers up to 60; perianth scales 4-8, the inner ones smaller; ovary 4 mm long, sessile, narrowly fusiform, unilocular, ovule solitary, pendulous; style short; stigma oval, c.1/2 style-length. Fruit 6 x 3 mm, dry, indehiscent, externally hard, internal spongy; dark green to yellow-green, sessile, obovoid, style base forming a hard, prolonged beak.

Flowering:

September - April

Fruiting:

November - May

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

References and further reading:

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

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2264



Caption: *Sparganium subglobosum*
Photographer: Wayne Bennett



Caption: *Sparganium subglobosum*
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth