



Alisma plantago-aquatica

Common Name(s):

water plantain

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Scattered and locally common from Northland to northern Southland, but absent from large parts of southern margins of still and slow flowing water bodies and wetlands. nd eastern North Island and eastern South Island.

Habitat:

Margins of still and slow flowing water bodies and wetlands.

Features*:

Leafy emergent perennial herb up to c. 1 m high, although non-flowering plants are much shorter. Aerial parts die off over winter to the rootstock. Leaves all basal, broad ovate 8-20 × 3-10 cm, with a rounded base with a long petiole up to or exceeding the leaf blade. Petiole is semi-circular in cross-section (D-shaped). Inflorescence a large, much-branched panicle; branches whorled. Flowers usually pale lilac, c. 1 cm across. C. 20 rounded and flattened seeds (achenes) c. 2.5 mm long, in a dense circular head (Croasdale et al., 1994).

Flowering:

Summer

Fruiting:

Summer to autumn

*Attribution:

Prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

References and further reading:

Aston, H.I. (1977). Aquatic plants of Australia. A guide to the identification of the aquatic ferns and flowering plants of Australia, both native and naturalised. Melbourne University Press. 368pp.

Croasdale, H., Flint E. A. and Racine, M. M. (1994). Flora of New Zealand Volume 3: Freshwater algae, chlorophyta, desmids with ecological comments on their habitats, Staurodesmus Staurostrum and the Filamentous desmids. Manaaki Whenua Press: Lincoln, New Zealand.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

Preston, C.D.; Croft, J.M. (1997). Aquatic plants in Britain and Ireland. Harley Books, 365pp.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2433



Caption: *Alisma plantago-aquatica*

Photographer: Trevor James (AgResearch)



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