



Apium nodiflorum

Common Name(s):

water celery, fool's watercress

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Scattered distribution from Northland to Wellington, abundant in many areas. Has also established in the north and west of the South Island.

Habitat:

Shallow water ponds, drains, and the margins of slow moving streams.

Features*:

Stout perennial herb with prostrate and ascending stems. The stems are hollow, finely furrowed, may be up to 2m long and root at the lower nodes. The leaves are glossy, bright green to 70 cm long with 2 to 8 pairs of toothed stalkless oval to lance-shaped leaflets. The individual flowers are small (2 to 2 mm) with five white petals, and occur in short stalked clusters/umbels (2 to 4 cm) in diameter. The fruit are dark brown, small (2mm long) and ovoid/egg shaped and ribbed.

Flowering:

November to February

Fruiting:

Late summer to autumn

*Attribution:

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

References and further reading:

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

Newman J (2004), Information sheet 28: Fools watercress. Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, UK.

Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

Johnson, A. T., Smith, H. A. (1972). Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning. Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2444



Caption: Whanganui. Dec 2011.

Photographer: Colin Ogle



Caption: Flowering Apium nodiflorum

Photographer: Paul Champion