



Alisma lanceolatum

Common Name(s):

water plantain

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Scattered in Hawkes Bay, Wellington and Canterbury.

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 7-23 (28) × 2-5 cm, with a tapered base with a long petiole up to or exceeding the leaf blade. Petiole is semi-circular in cross-section (D-shaped). Submerged or floating leaved plants sometimes occur, these have narrower than emergent leaves. 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.

Flowering:

Summer

Fruiting:

Summer to autumn

*Attribution:

Prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

References and further reading:

Clapham, A.R.; Tutin, T.G.; Warburg, E.F. (1962). *Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge University Press, Second Edition. 1269pp.

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=2460



Caption: *Alisma lanceolatum*
Photographer: Trevor James (AgResearch)



Caption: *Alisma lanceolatum*
Photographer: Trevor James (AgResearch)