



Callitriche stagnalis

Common Name(s):

water starwort

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Widespread and locally abundant throughout NZ.

Habitat:

Damp swampy water margins, drains and streams, shallow water margins.

Features*:

C. stagnalis has slender stems, 10 to 50 cm or more long, with opposite, linear to narrow-lanceolate leaves separated by elongated internodes. Towards the apex, the leaves are typically crowded, obovate or spatulate-oblong and may form floating rosettes. In floating rosettes of apical close-set leaves, the stems are often just/shortly above the water. The upper most leaves are up to 10 mm long by 6 mm wide, while the lower leaves (in pairs) are narrower (but never as narrow as in the native *C. petriei*). Leaves have 3, 5 or 7 veins. The male and female flowers are separate, on the same plant. The flowers are green and tiny, without petals or sepals, and occur either in pairs or solitary at the base of the leaves. The fruit are ca 1.5 mm in diameter, pale, round and narrowly winged.

Flowering:

December to February

Fruiting:

Summer to autumn.

*Attribution:

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

References and further reading:

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WSDE (2001). An aquatic plant identification manual for Washington's freshwater plants. Washington State Department of Ecology, 195pp.

Aston, H (1977). Aquatic plants of Australia. Melbourne University Press, 367pp. Lansdown, R.V. (2008). Water-starworts (*Callitriche* of Europe) BSBI Handbook 2, London. 180 pp.

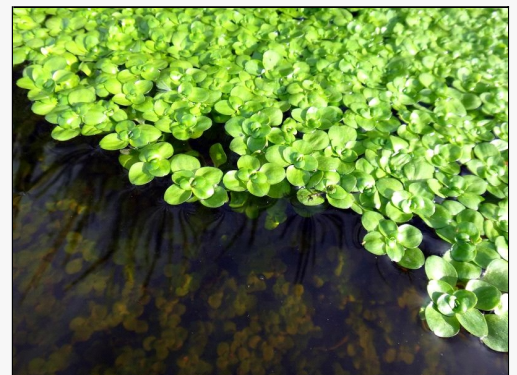
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Caption: Waituna Lagoon, Southland

Photographer: Jesse Bythell



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