



Hydrilla verticillata

Common Name(s):

hydrilla

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Locally naturalised in the Hawkes Bay, and known from only four lakes in that region. All subject to a national eradication programme.

Habitat:

Aquatic: Submerged. Grows in sites with low-high fertility in coastal and lowland and montane habitats. The areas at risk of invasion by hydrilla are warm fresh water ponds, canals and slow-moving streams. Only known from lake environments in New Zealand, but grows in flowing waters in other countries.

Features*:

Submerged, bottom rooting perennial, growing to about 9 m. Stems slender (1mm diam.) and brittle, occasionally branched. Leaves in whorls of 3-8, margins distinctly toothed. Small tubers and turions, 6-12 x 2 mm, translucent dark green. Male flowers only in NZ. No seed set in NZ.

Flowering:

Summer/autumn.

Fruiting:

Only male plants in NZ.

*Attribution:

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

References and further reading:

Champion et al (2012). Freshwater Pests of New Zealand. NIWA publication.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/management-tools/identification-guides-and-factsheets/freshwater-pest-species>.

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Coffey BT, Clayton JS (1988). New Zealand water plants: a guide to plants found in New Zealand freshwaters. Ruakura Agricultural Centre. 65pp.

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

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For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=4091



Caption: Weed bed of *Hydrilla verticillata*

Photographer: John Clayton



Caption: Tubers and turions

Photographer: John Clayton