



Callitriche platycarpa

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Palmerston North in drains.

Habitat:

Shallow water lake margins and slow flowing streams.

Features*:

The stems are threadlike and branched, up to ca 50 cm long. The leaves are opposite and may be submerged or floating. Submerged leaves are narrow 0.5 to 2.5cm long with 2 rounded leaf tip lobes. The floating leaves are oval (ca 1 cm wide), and may form rosettes on the water surface. The leaf bases are joined by a wing-like ridge. The flowers are small, without petals and sepal, but have 2 small white bracts (that act as petals). The flowers occur in the leaf bases. There are 4 tiny fruits per flower that are heart shaped ca. up to 1mm in size, and do not have a narrow winged margin.

Flowering:

Spring/summer

Fruiting:

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.

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.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=4503