



Chara fibrosa

Common Name(s):

Stonewort

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: North, South Island. Widespread globally.

Habitat:

Oligotrophic lakes.

Features:

Aquatic, submerged, macro-algae. Spinose appearance, with outward-facing, spine-like cells on branchlet whorls and central stems. Branches are not forked. Stems are covered by a secondary cell layer (cortication), making them more resistant to physical damage. Accessory cells at junctions between branchlet cells are long and spine-like. Stems are anchored in the sediment by colourless rhizoids. Plant is monoecious, with antheridia and oogonia on the same plant often located together, and with fruiting bodies dispersed over the upper stem portions.

Fruiting:

Produces large (>500µm long) black oospores that are round in transverse section. Oospore has 7-9 sinistral spiralling ridges.

References and further reading:

Broady, P.A.; Flint, E.A.; Nelson, W.A.; Cassie Cooper, V.; de Winton, M.D.; Novis P.M. Chapter 23 Twenty – Three :Phyla Chlorophyta and Charophyta (Green Algae). In: New Zealand Inventory of Biodiversity (Volume 3), Gordon, D.P. (Ed), Canterbury University Press, 616pp.

Casanova, M.T.; de Winton, M.D.; Karol, K.G.; Clayton J.S. (2007). *Nitella hookeri* A. Braun (Characeae, Charophyceae) in New Zealand and Australia: implications for endemism, speciation and biogeography. *Charophytes* (1): 2-18

de Winton, M.D.; Dugdale, A.M.; Clayton, J.S. (2007). An identification key for oospores of the extant charophytes of New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany*:463-476

Wood RD, Mason R 1977. Characeae of New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 15: 87–180.

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http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=7559