



## *Cabomba caroliniana*

### Common Name(s):

Cabomba, fanwort

### Distribution:

Only known from one site at Western Springs, Auckland, but a common plant in the aquarium trade.

### Habitat:

The NZ field site is a spring head, but *C. caroliniana* occurs in slow flowing and still water bodies in other countries. It is known from tropical to temperate regions, grows rooted in the substrate or free-floating, in stagnant and flowing water. It grows best in slightly acidic waters, but is not limited to them.

### Features\*:

Shoots are grass green to olive green or sometimes reddish brown. The leaves are of two types: submersed and floating. The submersed leaves are finely divided (palmately dissected) and arranged in pairs on the stem. They are fan-shaped, hence the name fanwort. The floating leaves, when present (usually when the plants flower), are linear and inconspicuous with the stem attached to the centre (peltate) and one end shallowly forked. They are ca 10 to 20 mm long and narrow. The flowers are small (10 to 20mm in diameter), mainly white with yellow at the base of the petals and float on or slightly emergent above the water surface. Each flower produces 2 to 4 leathery pods that contain 3 seeds (1 mm wide).

### Flowering:

Summer

### Fruiting:

Autumn

### \*Attribution:

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-fact-sheets/freshwater-pest-species>.

Kasselmann C (2003). Aquarium plants. Krieger Publishing company, Florida, 518pp.

DiTomaso JM, EA Healy (2003). Aquatic and riparian weeds of the west. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 3421, 462pp.

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

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=7583](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=7583)



**Caption:** Field shot in Queensland (foliage of *Cabomba caroliniana*)

**Photographer:** Andrew Petroschevsky (Department of Primary Industries, NSW)



**Caption:** Flowers, surface and submerged foliage

**Photographer:** Deborah Hofstra (NIWA)