



## *Rorippa divaricata*

### Common Name(s):

New Zealand watercress, Matangaoa

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable

### Distribution:

Endemic. Known from the Kermadec, Three Kings, North, South and Chatham Islands. It has not been seen on the Kermadecs for over 100 years but is still present on the Three Kings, Poor Knights and other Hauraki Gulf Islands. In the North Island it has been recorded recently from Kawhia, Hicks Bay and the Rotorua Lakes district. In the South Island it is known from and in the vicinity of the Abel Tasman National Park. On the Chatham Islands it has been collected once in 1985 and not reliably reported since.

### Habitat:

A species of recently disturbed ground. Usually found in or near clearings, on recent slips or on track margins. Often on lake and river margins. Plants may also grow within active petrel colonies, often around burrow entrances. This species seems to do best in dappled light, and is often found in forested habitats. It has also been found in pine plantations.

### Features\*:

Annual to perennial herb (depending on local growing conditions), 0.3-2 m tall, arising from stout taproot. Basal stem one (or more), erect to decumbent, glabrescent, woody, purple red when mature, somewhat angled. Leaves green, yellow-green, dark green or purple-green, margins sinuate, dentate to deeply toothed. Basal leaves petiolate, petiole broadly winged, grading into deflexed amplexicaul leaf lobes; lamina 30-160 x 20-80 mm, pinnatifid. Mid cauline leaves similar but smaller, upper cauline leaves much smaller, linear-lanceolate, simple, basally cuneately narrowed or amplexicaul. Inflorescence a complex, heavily branched raceme. Racemes 50-200 mm long. Pedicels 5-20 mm long at flowering, erecto-patent, spreading to deflexed at fruiting. Sepals 2-3 mm long. Petals white 2-3 mm long. Fruit a dark green to purple-green silique, 10-40 x 1-2 mm, spreading, linear, more or less terete, shallowly grooved along suture. Style remnant c.2 mm long. Seeds orange to red-brown, c.1 mm diam., extremely sticky when fresh.

### Flowering:

Spring (can flower from October to February)

### Fruiting:

Summer (can fruit from October to May)

### Threats:

Weed competition is a major threat. Trampling, vegetation succession and vegetation clearance will also threatened populations. Plants are prone to drought. Browsing animals (possums, rodents, stock and feral pigs) and exotic insect pests (particularly cabbage white butterfly) are also significant threats.

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2009).  
Description by P.J. de Lange subsequently published in de Lange et al (2010).

### References and further reading:

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.

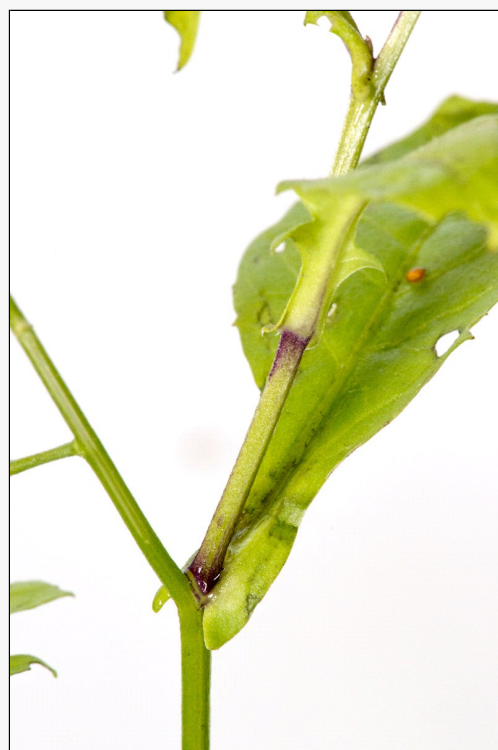
### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=91](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=91)



**Caption:** Blue Lake, Rotorua. March 2013.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe from a specimen collected by Sarah Beadel.



**Caption:** Leaf node. Blue Lake, Rotorua. Mar 2013.

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