

Calystegia marginata

COMMON NAME

small-flowered white bindweed

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Convolvulaceae

AUTHORITY

Calystegia marginata R.Br.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

CALMAR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, SO, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO, EF

2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. North Island from Te Pahi to Manukau in the West and Cuvier Island in the east. Also recorded on Rekohu (Chatham Island) in the Chatham Islands group. There are historic records from near Thames. Present in Eastern Australia.

HABITAT

Primarily coastal but also found in lowland areas. Prefers open shrublands, rough pasture or bracken dominated sites, usually on coastal headlands, but also on road sides, along railway embankments and in rough pasture and lawns.



1 mm

Seed. In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 20/07/2007, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation, Auckland. Feb 2007. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Glabrous perennial vine with creeping rhizome and slender twinning or prostrate stems (when prostrate these root freely at the nodes). Petioles slender (20-)50(-55) x 0.5-1 mm. Lamina bright green, 25-80 x 15-45 mm, sagittae, usually narrowly triangular (rarely broadly so); apex acute to acuminate; basal lobes acute, usually distinctly toothed (resembling a fish tail); basal sinus broad and rounded. Flowers usually solitary; peduncles 10-25 mm long, narrowly winged. Bracts broad-ovate, obtuse. 10 mm long. Sepals broad-ovate, < bracts, obtuse. Corolla 15 x 12 mm, white, campanulate. Capsule 6 mm diam., globose. Seeds black, reticulately ribbed, ribs protruberant.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be confused with *C. tuguriorum* and vegetative forms of *C. sepium* subsp. *roseata*. From both it is readily distinguished by the bright-green, narrowly sagittate leaves with conspicuous fish tail-like notches on the basal lobes. The white flowers are much smaller than in either species and are borne on conspicuously winged peduncles. The seeds are covered in distinctive protuberances absent in the other two species.

FLOWERING

Present throughout the year but peaking in spring and summer

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

Present throughout the year

LIFE CYCLE

Capsules are water and possibly also wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Somewhat weedy. The small arrow-shaped and tailed bright green leaves and tiny white flowers are quite unusual and attractive. Does well on a rock wall or on a grassy bank. Cold sensitive. An excellent coastal vine for a bach property.

THREATS

Ignorance seems to be the main threat. Because it is frequently mistaken as a convolvulus, it is sprayed. Also its preference for successional habitats and along road margins tend to make it especially vulnerable to routine, roadside weed spraying. Despite this problem there is some field evidence to suggest it is actually increasing its range. Plants have even been found in urban areas such as Whangarei and Auckland, in situations where the species had not previously been known.

ETYMOLOGY

calystegia: Name is derived from the Greek words kalyx 'cup', and stege 'a covering', meaning 'a covered cup', the calyx of some bindweeds being enclosed in two bracts.

marginata: From the Latin marginatus 'edge, margin', where one colour is surrounded by a very narrow rim of another

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 November 2005. Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Webb et al. (1988), supplemented with observations made from fresh and dried material.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Wellington, Government Printer.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11*: 285-309

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Christchurch, New Zealand, Botany Division, D.S.I.R..

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Calystegia marginata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/calystegia-marginata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/calystegia-marginata/>