

# Callitriche antarctica

## SYNONYMS

None Known

## FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

## AUTHORITY

Callitriche antarctica Hegelm.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

CALANT

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, SO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. In New Zealand known from Campbell and Auckland Islands. Also on Macquarie, Heard Island and Tasmania. Probably elsewhere on the subantarctic islands.

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane in damp, peaty and boggy ground. Common around sea bird nesting grounds, penguin rookeries and seal haul outs. Prefers open, disturbed habitats,

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted to spreading, much branched, succulent perennial herb forming dense bright to dark green patches on mud. Branches thick, creeping below with ascending branches up to 100 mm long. Leaves on stout petioles 2-3 mm long, lamina succulent, 2.5-10 x 1.5-4.8 mm, dark green to light green, spatulate to oblong-spatulate, 3-nerved, sometimes with free veins, apex rounded, base scarious. Flowers solitary, males in upper and female lower axils, ebracteate or with bracts shedding early. Filaments to 13 mm, tapering from broad base. Mericarp more or less elliptic, laterally compressed, 0.9-1.2(-1.5) mm long, surface reticulate, or colliculate, dull pale orange-yellow, orange-brown or dark brown.



Macquarie Island. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 03/01/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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### SIMILAR TAXA

*Callitriche aucklandica* R.Mason is similar but differs by its longer, laxly creeping, rather than ascending stems, fleshy rather than succulent leaves with broadly fused petioles, shorter filaments (9 cf. 1.3 mm) and larger fruits (1.0-1.6 cf. 0.9-1.5 mm).

### FLOWERING

November - December

### FRUITING

December - January

### LIFE CYCLE

Mericarps possibly by water and attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Probably easy. However, not known to have been cultivated.

### THREATS

Not Threatened. Listed because in the New Zealand region it has a restricted geographic range.

### ETYMOLOGY

**callitriche:** From the Greek *kalli* 'beautiful' and *thrix* 'hair', referring to the beautiful stems

**antarctica:** Antarctic

### ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

### REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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* 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

### NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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### MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/callitriche-antarctica/>