

# Callitriche chathamensis

## COMMON NAME

Chatham Island starwort

## SYNONYMS

*Callitriche petriei* subsp. *chathamensis* R.Mason

## FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Callitriche chathamensis* (Mason) Lansdown

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

CALPSC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 20

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

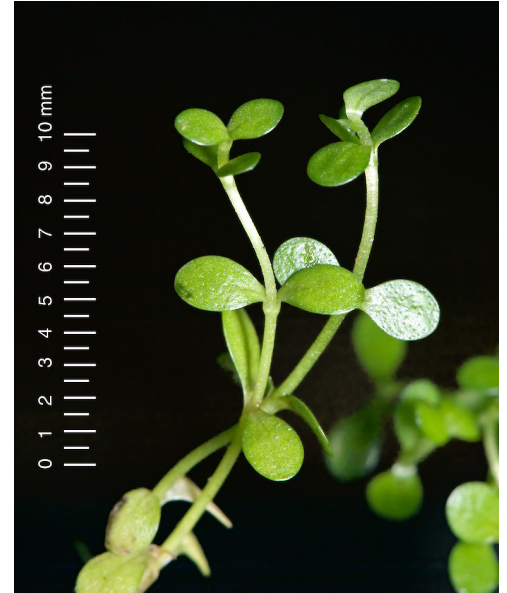
2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to the Chatham Islands

## HABITAT

Found on wet, peaty ground, commonly at the edges of streams and lakes, on bare peat and mud. Also in damp peaty turf on steep cliff faces, ledges and rubble near the sea.





In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 21/03/2007, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 21/03/2007, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stem and axillary scales present. Leaf bases connate. Lingulate leaves slightly wider toward apex, 1.0–1.4 mm long × 8.0–9.7 mm wide; expanded submerged or floating leaves ovate-elliptic 2.2–4.1 mm long × 0.8–2.5 mm wide, venation complex with frequent branches arising within and outside the secondary veins, secondary veins sometimes undulating, petiole 1.6–4.5 mm long; leaves of terrestrial plants unknown. Monoecious, flowers solitary, often alternating  and  along stem. Bracts lacking. Styles erect, 1.1–2.3 mm long. Filament erect, 4.5–6.8 mm long; anthers 0.5–0.6 mm long × 0.5–0.6 mm wide, quadrilocular; pollen yellow. Fruit not strumose, sessile, wider than high, pale brown when mature, 0.6–0.9 mm long × 0.7–1.1 mm long wide, unwinged.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from *C. petriei* by its monoecious rather than dioecious habit, larger leaves (2.5–8 cf 1.1–5 mm), larger fruit (0.6–0.9 × 0.7–1.1 cf. 0.6–0.7 × 0.7–0.9 mm); by the pale or golden brown unwinged fruit which are wider than high, and the lack of floral bracts. As the species name implies this species is restricted to the Chatham Island archipelago.

## FLOWERING

January - March

## FRUITING

January - March

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy to grow from rooted pieces and rapidly becomes invasive. Not a very attractive plant for a garden but could be useful on the margin of the pond

## THREATS

Not threatened and only listed because it is an island endemic which occupies a limited geographic area. It is abundant in suitable habitats on the two main Chatham Islands

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (24 May 2022). Description from Lansdown (2022)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Lansdown, R.V., 2022: The genus *Callitriche* (Plantaginaceae, Callitricheae) in Australasia and Oceania. *Phytotaxa* 547: 243–284.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Callitriche chathamensis* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/callitriche-chathamensis/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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