

Ecklonia radiata

COMMON NAME

Common kelp, paddle (common) weed

FAMILY

Lessoniaceae

AUTHORITY

Ecklonia radiata (C.Agardh) J.Agardh

FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This algae grows to about 1 metre long. It has a many fronds that arise from a central supporting stem.

THREATS

Common kelp is not a threatened species but it is the preferred food of the sea urchin, kina (*Evechinus chloroticus*) which, on occasion, mass together and eat an entire forest of the species.

ETYMOLOGY

ecklonia: Named in honour of Christian Friedrich Ecklon(1795-1868).Danish pharmacist, botanist and plant collector and one of the early botanical explorers of the Cape of Good Hope.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Easton, L. 1995. Report to Auckland Botanical society on the results of research into *Ecklonia radiata* dieback. Auckland Botanical Society Journal, 50: 39-40.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ecklonia-radiata/>

