

Gratiola pedunculata

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Gratiola pedunculata R.Br.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 32

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: SO

2009 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: SO

2004 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island Lakes Waiporohita and Rotokawau, (Karikari Peninsula), and Kai iwi lakes, Northland. Common in Australia

HABITAT

In New Zealand *G. pedunculata* is only known from two northern North Island lakes where it is an uncommon emergent in shallow water, and a common species of those lakes marginal turf communities

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect, sparingly branched, perennial herb up to 450 mm tall; all parts except corolla densely covered in viscid indumentum of sessile, golden, globose glands and sparse glandular hairs. Stems lime-green or red-purple. Leaves sessile, 3-nerved, 8-18 x 3-10 mm, lime-green, ovate to lanceolate; margins widely toothed, leaf base amplexicaule. Flowers 1(-2) per leaf axis. Pedicels 10-12(-16) mm. Bracteoles 1-2(-3) mm, linear-falcate. Sepals 5, free, erect, narrowly lanceolate, 4-5 mm. Corolla white flushed yellow, with 12-14 longitudinal purple stripes; tube 6 mm, narrow, inner surface white, silky hairy; lobes 5, projecting forward, 1 mm long, upper lobe often shallowly 2-lobed. Anthers white, ovoid, 0.5 mm; filaments yellow, 2-3 mm, staminodes 2 or 0, filiform and minute. Style caducous 1.8-2.1 mm. Capsule 3-5 mm, broadly ovoid, exceeding calyx, septical to base.



Gratiola pedunculata. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Gratiola pedunculata. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

A distinctive species whose sparingly branched, erect habit, extremely viscid indumentum, lime-green, unspotted leaves, and conspicuous pedicellate, sweetly scented flowers immediately distinguish it from the other three indigenous species.

FLOWERING

November – March

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

December – May

LIFE CYCLE

Mucilaginous seeds are dispersed by water and possibly wind and attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and stem cuttings. Prone to slug and snail damage. Does best in sunny, permanently damp soil. The small inconspicuous flowers, while not overly attractive are very pleasantly scented.

THREATS

Not threatened but still very uncommon in New Zealand. First discovered in New Zealand at Lake Waiporohita, Karikari Peninsula in November 1991 but it was not correctly identified until better material was collected in January 1996. Subsequently it has been discovered at Lake Rotokawau, also on the Karikari Peninsula and at the Kai iwi lakes. The seeds are probably dispersed by ducks and other dabbling water fowl.

ETYMOLOGY

gratiola: Little beauty

pedunculata: Flowers stalked

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 23 May 2005. Description modified from de Lange (1997)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, P.J. 1997: *Gratiola pedunculata* (Scrophulariaceae): a new addition to the New Zealand flora. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 35: 317-322

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gratiola-pedunculata/>