

Lamprothamnium macropogon

COMMON NAME

Stonewort

FAMILY

Characeae

AUTHORITY

Lamprothamnium macropogon (A.Braun) J.L. Ophel

FLORA CATEGORY

Non-vascular – Native

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small branched spiny submerged plant usually growing in brackish water.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North, South and Chatham Islands. Also Australia.

HABITAT

Brackish water, coastal lakes and lagoons.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Aquatic, submerged, macro-algae. Fox-tail tips, and spinose appearance. Downward facing spine-like cells are clustered on the stem at the base of the branchlet whorl, and shorter, outward facing spines present on the branchlets. Branchlets are not forked, but spine-like cells are obvious at junctions between branchlet cells. Stem and branchlets are comprised of strings of large single cells that are easily punctured, with central stems anchored in the sediment by colourless rhizoids. Plant is monoecious, with orange antheridia and pale oogonia on the same plant and with fruiting bodies dispersed over the upper stem portions or in a whorl around the stem above the branchlets.

SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from *Chara fibrosa*, which has corticated stems covered in spines and occurs in freshwater, while *Lamprothamnium* is uncorticated and spines on the stem are restricted to immediately around the branchlet whorl.

FRUITING

Produces large (>500µm long) black oospores that are round in transverse section. Oospore has 10-12 sinistral spiralling ridges, granular membrane of coarse round grains.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Fragments or oospores.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Broady, P.A.; Flint, E.A.; Nelson, W.A.; Cassie Cooper, V.; de Winton, M.D.; Novis P.M. Chapter 23 Twenty –Three :Phyla Chlorophyta and Charophyta (Green Algae). In: New Zealand Inventory of Biodiversity (Volume 3), Gordon, D.P. (Ed), Canterbury University Press, 616pp.

Casanova, M.T.; de Winton, M.D.; Karol, K.G.; Clayton J.S. (2007). *Nitella hookeri* A. Braun (Characeae, Charophyceae) in New Zealand and Australia: implications for endemism, speciation and biogeography. *Charophytes* (1): 2-18

de Winton, M.D.; Dugdale, A.M.; Clayton, J.S. (2007). An identification key for oospores of the extant charophytes of New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany*:463-476

Wood RD, Mason R 1977. Characeae of New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 15: 87–180.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lamprothamnium-macropogon/>

