

# Myriophyllum propinquum

## COMMON NAME

common water milfoil

## FAMILY

Haloragaceae

## AUTHORITY

Myriophyllum propinquum A.Cunn.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

MYRPRO

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 14

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).



Kopuatai swamp, February. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Wairarapa. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 07/04/2007, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Weak aquatic or semiaquatic or terrestrial herb (50-)100-250(-400) mm tall; stems weak, slender, 1.0-1.5(-3.0) mm diameter, rooting at lower nodes; glabrous. Leaves distinctly dimorphic. Submerged leaves in whorls of 3-4(-5), ovate to orbicular in outline, (6-)10-20(-25) × 10-16(-25) mm, pectinate with 10-22 filiform pinnae 5-6(-20) mm long, with distinct petiole 1-2 mm long. Emergent leaves in whorls of (2-)3-4(-5), linear, (2-)5-7(-12) × 0.5-1.0(-1.5) mm, usually flattened but occasionally terete to filiform, spreading or slightly curved upwards, margin entire or sometimes weakly toothed. Rarely, all or most emergent leaves pinnatifid, 4-5 × 1.5-3.5 mm wide with pinnae to 1.5 mm long. Transitional leaves usually 1-2(-4) whorls only. Inflorescence an indeterminate spike with the unisexual flowers borne singly in axils of the emergent leaves. Each whorl contains flowers of 1 sex only, male in upper 1-8 whorls, female in lower 2-6 whorls, with usually 1-2 sterile whorls between. Occasionally all whorls (up to 20) contain female flowers only. All flowers subtended by 2 bracteoles. Bracteoles ovate, (0.4-)0.5-0.8 × (0.2-)0.4-0.5 mm wide, slightly lacinate towards tip or entire. Male flowers 4-merous, sessile or becoming shortly pedicellate. Sepals 4, ovate, 0.4-0.6 × 0.3-0.4 mm, weakly toothed near apex. Petals 4, hooded, very weakly keeled, 1.8-2.7(-3.0) × 1.4 mm, becoming reflexed and inrolled after anthesis. Stamens 8; filaments 1-2 mm long, elongating after anthesis; anthers yellow, linear-oblong, 1.7-2.4 × 0.4-0.5 mm, antisealous anthers c. 0.2 mm longer than antipetalous ones. Styles 0. Ovary vestigial. Female flowers 4-merous, sessile. Sepals, petals and stamens 0. Styles 4, clavate, 0.2-0.3 mm long, stigmas occupying most of length of style, white, fimbriate. Ovary 4-merous, oblong, 0.7-0.8 mm long (excluding styles), 0.7 mm wide; carpels cylindrical, smooth, with styles on outermost corners. Fruit pale yellow-brown, cylindrical, sessile, splitting at maturity into 4 mericarps. Mericarps 0.8-1.1 mm long, 0.4-0.5 mm diameter, smooth apart from scattering of very small asperities on outer face, crowned by persistent base of style.

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and rooted pieces. An excellent plant for pond, slow flowing stream or fish tank.

## ETYMOLOGY

**myriophyllum:** Many leaves

**propinquum:** Very like the next species

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2009). Description based on Orchard (1979)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Orchard, A.E. 1979: *Myriophyllum* (Haloragaceae) in Australasia. 1. New Zealand: a revision of the genus and a synopsis of the family. *Brunonia* 2: 247-287.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myriophyllum-propinquum/>