

Myriophyllum variifolium

FAMILY

Haloragaceae

AUTHORITY

Myriophyllum variifolium Hook. f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Spreading emergent perennial herb with bright green needle like foliage like a small pine tree Submerged leaves are finely divided and pale green in colour.

DISTRIBUTION

Locally naturalised, Hunua Range, Auckland and Opawa River, Marlborough.

HABITAT

Still and slow flowing water bodies.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The emergent leaves are in whorls of 5-6 and are usually entire, although the lower leaves may have a few teeth. The submerged leaves have up to 19 elongated and widely spaced leaflets.

SIMILAR TAXA

Myriophyllum propinquum has reddish stems and leaves are arranged in whorls of 3-4, whereas M. variifolium has whorls of 5-6.

FLOWERING

November to February

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

None produced

LIFE CYCLE

Stem fragmentation and lateral stem growth. It does not produce viable seed in New Zealand, with only female flowers known from field sites.

YEAR NATURALISED

1990

ORIGIN

Australia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental aquarium and pond plant.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

ETYMOLOGY

myriophyllum: Many leaves



ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Champion et al (2012). Freshwater Pests of New Zealand. NIWA publication.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/management-tools/identification-guides-and-fact-sheets/freshwater-pest-species>.

MORE INFORMATION

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