

Nasturtium microphyllum

COMMON NAME

one-rowed watercress

SYNONYMS

Rorippa microphylla (Boenn.) N. Hylander

FAMILY

Brassicaceae

AUTHORITY

Nasturtium microphyllum Boenn. ex Rchb.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

NASMIC

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A bright green, robust, creeping or upright herb that has small white flowers in spring through summer, and is found along the margins of slow flowing shallow waters. Leaves have a distinctive peppery smell when crushed.

DISTRIBUTION

Common throughout New Zealand.

HABITAT

Margins of slow moving rivers, streams, ditches and drains.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

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

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial stoloniferous herb. Stems trailing, glabrous, to several m long. Leaves glabrous, all similar, but becoming smaller near inflorescence. Pinnate, petiolate, 2-10-(25) x 1-5 cm; basal auricles very small; leaflets rounded, ovate; margins entire or sinuate. Pedicels glabrous, slender, erecto-patent, spreading to deflexed at fruiting, (8)-12-20-(30) mm long. Sepals 2.5-3.5 x 1 mm. Petals white, (4)-5-6 x 1.5-2.5 mm. Silique glabrous, narrow-oblong to linear, curved, (10)-15-25-(30) x c.1.5 mm; valves with distinct midrib, at least below; style c. 1 mm long. Seeds in ± 1 row per locule, brown, c. 1mm long, coarsely reticulate with 100-150 polygonal depressions per face.

SIMILAR TAXA

Very similar to *N. officinale*, but the flowers of *N. microphyllum* are larger, capsules are longer and more slender, and the seeds are in one row and with more finely pitted surfaces. The leaves of *N. microphyllum* turn brown/purple in autumn/winter.

FLOWERING

August - June

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

Summer-autumn



LIFE CYCLE

Stem fragmentation and seed.

YEAR NATURALISED

1954

ORIGIN

Europe

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Culinary herb.

ETYMOLOGY

microphyllum: Small leaf

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Webb et al. (1988).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

Aston, H (1977). Aquatic plants of Australia. Melbourne University Press, 367pp.

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. (1988). Flora of New Zealand Volume 4: Naturalised pteridophytes, gymnosperms, dicotyledons. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch. 1365 pp.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/nasturtium-microphyllum/>