

Nymphoides montana

COMMON NAME

marshwort, entire marshwort

SYNONYMS

Nymphoides geminata (R. Br.) Kuntze

FAMILY

Menyanthaceae

AUTHORITY

Nymphoides montana Aston

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Floating leaved aquatic plant with 'lily' shaped leaves and yellow flowers, that can develop dense stands in still and slow flowing waters.

DISTRIBUTION

Locally naturalised, Auckland to Canterbury, eradicated from most known sites.

HABITAT

Still and slow flowing water bodies.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

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

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Underwater stem creeping or floating near the surface, with leaves and roots at each node. The leaves are heart-shaped and up to 10 cm across, bright green on upperside and often pinkish on the underside. The main vein is indistinct. Flowers are bright yellow 2.5-3.5cm wide, with 5 petals that have fringed marginal wings. Flowers found above the water surface on long stalks that grow in pairs from short leafless side stems.

SIMILAR TAXA

Fringed water lily (*Nymphoides peltata*), water poppy (*Hydrocleys nymphoides*), water lily (*Nymphaea* spp.), and yellow water lily (*Nuphar lutea*). Fringed water lily has leaves with scalloped margins, whereas marshwort has entire leaf margins. Yellow water lily has very thick spongy stolons (up to 10 cm) and much larger floating leaves (up to 40 cm long and 30 cm wide). Water lily has a larger leaf with a distinct main vein. Water poppy has an ovate leaf with an inflated mid-vein on the underside.

FLOWERING

November, December, January, February, March, April.

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

Not known to fruit in New Zealand



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LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Vegetative spread by creeping stem growth and fragmentation. Deliberate plantings.

YEAR NATURALISED

1985

ORIGIN

Australia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental pond plant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

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

ETYMOLOGY

montana: From the Latin mons 'mountain', meaning growing on mountains

ATTRIBUTION

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

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Aston, H.I. 2009: Notes on Australian taxa of Nymphoides (Menyanthaceae): typification and nomenclature.

Muelleria 27: 119-126.

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>.

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.

Clayton, J.S.; Tanner, C.C. (1985). Nymphoides geminata (R. Sr.) Kuntze in New Zealand. NZJ Botany 23: 187-190.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/nymphoides-montana/>