

Oxalis chnoodes

COMMON NAME

oxalis

FAMILY

Oxalidaceae

AUTHORITY

Oxalis chnoodes Lourteig

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

So far only known from urban habitats (streetsides, cracked pavement, clogged gutters and drains, gardens and in plant nurseries as a contaminant of potted plants). Known from Auckland, Waiheke Island and Wanganui City.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb lacking bulbils and taproot. Stems numerous, basally woody, creeping or decumbent up to 0.8 m long, not rooting at nodes; emergent stems densely invested in silky-white, spreading ± retrorse hairs; hairs shedding with stem maturation. Leaves cauline, fasciculate, 3-foliolate; leaflets sessile, obovate-cuneate, 4-16 × 4-18 mm, bilobed, pale green, glaucescent, sparsely to densely pubescent above, more densely hairy below, margins ciliate, sinus up to 1/5 leaflet length, lobes oblong to obovate, apices rounded, 2-12 mm apart; petioles usually 0.50-40.0 mm long, densely covered with spreading hairs; stipules ± conspicuous or minute up to 1.5 mm long, truncate to abruptly tapering to petiole, chartaceous, densely hairy, margins densely ciliate. Inflorescences axillary, 2-4-flowered; peduncles longer than leaves, densely covered with spreading hairs; pedicels erect. Sepals elliptic 3.0-4.5 mm long, ciliate; petals 6-12 mm long, pale yellow. Capsule subglobose to ellipsoid, usually 7-9 mm long, retrorse-hairy with simple and septate hairs; seeds transversely ribbed.

SIMILAR TAXA

From *Oxalis corniculata*, *O. chnoodes* is distinguished by the stout, woody taproot (usually absent in *O. corniculata*, or if present then fleshy), white, heavily tomentose stems, petioles, petiolules, leaf undersides and laminal margins (rather than glabrescent to hairy (but not densely so) in *O. corniculata*), and densely ciliate, conspicuous to minute, tapering, truncate stipules with round distal portions (rather than very large, conspicuous, bluntly truncate, sparsely hairy to glabrous in *O. corniculata*).

FLOWERING

Year round

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow



Wanganui. Sep 2007. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Naturalised at Auckland University. Aug 2007. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FRUITING

Year round

YEAR NATURALISED

2005

ORIGIN

Probably Eastern Australia

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Disposal Method

As for other Oxalis

ETYMOLOGY

oxalis: From the Greek word oxus meaning acid or sharp

Reason For Introduction

Probably accidental

Life Cycle Comments

Long-lived perennial herb

Reproduction

By seed

Seed

Copiously produced, possibly long-lived, plants soon form a large seed bank

Dispersal

In garden waste and rubbish, and by water moving seed along gutters and in drains

Tolerances

Cold and drought tolerant

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/oxalis-chnoodes/>