

Rorippa amphibia

COMMON NAME

tall yellow cress, marsh yellow cress

FAMILY

Brassicaceae

AUTHORITY

Rorippa amphibia (L.) Besser

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Tall herb, up to 1 m tall, with various shaped leaves, the lowest being deeply lobed, the uppermost with no lobes, but all with toothed margins, flowers are bright-yellow c. 6 mm across in large flower heads at the top of the stem.

DISTRIBUTION

Very local Northland to Waikato and Bay of Plenty.

HABITAT

Swamps, margins of water bodies and cultivation weed in wet areas.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial rhizomatous herb. Stems erect, glabrous or finely hairy, 30-80 cm tall. Lvs ± glabrous, variable in shape, spatulate-oblanceolate, cuneate; margins toothed. Lower lvs petiolate, auriculate at base, deeply pinnatifid with lobes becoming shallower toward apex, 8-16 × 2-6-(7) cm. Upper lvs smaller, pinnatifid or toothed, sometimes linear; auricles becoming 0. Pedicels glabrous, erecto-patent to patent, sometimes deflexed at fruiting, (5)-7-10-(12) mm long. Sepals 2-3 × 1 mm. Petals bright yellow, 3-6 mm long. Silicle glabrous, elliptic to ovoid, 1.5-3-(4) × 0.6-1-(2) mm, but often not or poorly developed; valves veinless; style 1 mm long. Seeds reddish brown, c. 1 mm long, finely colliculate, in 2 rows per locule. As this plant is self-sterile many populations do not produce seed in New Zealand.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to the introduced creeping yellow cress (*R. sylvestris*) and the native poniu (*R. palustris*) but much taller, petals being > 2x length of the sepals (unlike poniu) and fruit being oval rather than sausage shaped with peduncles > 2x the length of the fruit (unlike creeping yellow cress).

FLOWERING

November to February

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

November to February

LIFE CYCLE

Seed and rhizomes dispersed by water or contaminated machinery.



YEAR NATURALISED

1870

ORIGIN

Temperate Eurasia and North Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown, seed or soil contaminant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

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

ETYMOLOGY

rorippa: A latinized form of Rorippen, a Saxon vernacular name used by Euricius Cordus

ATTRIBUTION

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

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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.

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

Clapham, A.R.; Tutin, T.G.; Warburg, E.F. (1962). Flora of the British Isles. Cambridge University Press, Second Edition. 1269pp.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rorippa-amphibia/>