

Rorippa laciniata

COMMON NAME

cut-leaved bittercress

SYNONYMS

Cardamine laciniata F.Muell.; *Nasturtium laciniatum* (F.Muell.) O.E.Schulz

FAMILY

Brassicaceae

AUTHORITY

Rorippa laciniata (F.Muell.) L.A.S.Johnson

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: OL, SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: OL, SO

2009 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. North Island, Hikurangi Swamp. Also Australia (New South Wales and Victoria)

HABITAT

Lowland alluvial swamp forest - along muddy river banks under *Coprosma* scrub. Usually in places where water is ponded over winter



Hikurangi Swamp. Dec 2008. Photographer: A. J. Townsend, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Hikurangi Swamp. Dec 2008. Photographer: A. J. Townsend, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial tap-rooted herb, root stock ± woody, suberect to erect, producing one or more leafy, somewhat flaccid rosettes. Leaves 20–150 × 30–50 mm, mostly basal, narrowly elliptic, elliptic to broadly elliptic or rhomboidal, entire or irregularly and sometimes deeply toothed or lobed, lyrate-pinnatifid, or lyrate-pinnatisect, segments broadly to narrowly linear, often deeply toothed, with a terminal lobe and 1–4 pairs of narrow lobes, adaxially dark green to reddish-green, abaxially similar but lighter, glabrous; margin hairy, hairs up to 0.3 mm long; petioles 50–100 mm long, plano-convex, glabrous, margin narrowly winged; cauline leaves absent or few, similar to basal leaves but smaller and narrower. Inflorescence 10–30 or more flowered, 200–800 mm long, dark green to reddish green, glabrous, sprawling to ascending, often flaccid and supported by surrounding vegetation; flowers protogynous, slightly fragrant, up to 5.7 × 3.6 mm. Pedicels 9.2–12.2 mm long, erecto-patent at flowering, spreading at fruiting. Sepals 4, (2.3–)3.8–4.5 × 1.2–1.3 mm, linear-lanceolate, ± subulate, adaxially dark green, yellow-green to reddish green, glabrous; margin entire, thin, white; apex saccate, obtuse. Petals 4, 3.6–5.5 × 1.9–2.3 mm, oblong, white, flushed lavender at senescence, slightly longer than sepals, base cuneate, apex obtuse, claw 0.8–1.2 mm long. Stamens 4; filaments 2.5–4.0 mm long, white; anthers 0.6–0.8 × c. 0.4 mm, yellow, pollen yellow. Ovary 1.8–4.0 mm long, terete, green; style c. 0.5 mm long; stigma c. 0.6 mm diam., capitate to weakly bilobed. Siliques 15–46 × 1.3–1.8 mm, erect to spreading, linear, straight, ± terete, green, dark green to reddish green; valves with inconspicuous midrib fading toward apex; style remnant 0.5–0.8 mm long; seeds in 1 row per locule. Seed 1.3–1.4 × c. 0.9 mm, light orange-brown, slightly winged, testa punctate, spongy when fresh, mucilaginous.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from *Rorippa divaricata* by the mostly basal, deeply cut leaves with distinctly hairy margins, few cauline leaves; petals > sepals, and coloured first white then flushing lavender at senescence, and by the seeds which are spongy when fresh, distinctly winged, with a punctate rather than reticulate seed coat.

FLOWERING

October - January

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

November - February

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed. Leaves edible. Not a particularly attractive plant.

THREATS

About 100 plants are known so far from a single site that was discovered in January 2008. The only known population is within a reserve and there are no known threats.

ETYMOLOGY

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

ATTRIBUTION

Description from: de Lange et al. (2009).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Description from: de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Townsend, A.J. *Rorippa laciniata* (Brassicaceae), a new addition to the flora of New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 47: 133–137.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Rorippa laciniata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rorippa-laciniata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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