

# Rumex sagittatus

## COMMON NAME

climbing dock

## FAMILY

Polygonaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Rumex sagittatus* Thunb.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

RUMSAG

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Climbing or scrambling, dioecious or monoecious perennial with tuberous woody rootstock; stems to approx. 3m long, glabrous, flexuous. Leaves all similar. Petioles slender,  $\geq$  lamina. Lamina 3~8 x 2~6cm, triangular or hastate with 2 long basal lobes at 45° to petiole, otherwise entire, slightly puberulent on main veins below when young; sinus broad and rounded; apex acuminate to cuspidate. Panicle pyramidal, with small leaves in the lower axils only. Pedicels filiform, long, glabrous. Perianth 1.5~2mm long, green; outer segments generally ovate-oblong, becoming strongly reflexed in female flowers. Fruit valves 6~9mm diam., orbicular, entire, prominently reticulate, cordate, yellow, pink to crimson; tubercles 0. Nuts approx. 3mm long, glossy light brown; keels almost winged. (-Webb et al., 1988)

## SIMILAR TAXA

Climbing or scrambling, dioecious or monoecious perennial with stems up to 3m long (Webb et al., 1988). A plant with tuberous woody rootstocks (Porteus 1993; Webb et al., 1988). Fruit parts heart-shaped, yellow or pink to crimson (Webb et al., 1988).

## FLOWERING

November, December, January, February, March

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green

## LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Papery seed with three wings (Coastcare, 1998). Seeds are dispersed successfully by wing and germinate easily (Erment and Clapp 1998).



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**YEAR NATURALISED**

1935

**ORIGIN**

South Africa

**REASON FOR INTRODUCTION**

Ornamental

**ETYMOLOGY**

**rumex:** Sorrel

**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rumex-sagittatus/>