

# Sagittaria subulata

## FAMILY

Alismataceae

## AUTHORITY

Sagittaria subulata (Linne) Buchenau

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small (relatively short compared with other *Sagittaria* spp. In NZ) aquatic plant that grows in clumps (roettes) and produces stolons enabling lateral spread.

## DISTRIBUTION

Few field sites in Auckland, Waikato and Tasman.

## HABITAT

Still and slow flowing water bodies.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants stoloniferous, rosette-forming with emergent plants having petiolate ovoid leaves 2-6 cm x 0.5-2 cm. Submerged leaves strap-like 6-60 cm long and up to 0.6 cm wide. Submerged and emergent plants flower with 1 to 10 whorls of flowers, males above female whorls. Flowers 3-petalled, white 1-3.5 cm across. fruiting heads globose, 0.5-0.7 cm across, each with many seeds. Seeds are brown, wedge shaped, 1.5-2 mm long, 1 mm wide, with a characteristic beak.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Submerged forms similar to other *Sagittaria* species and *Vallisneria australis*. All other species have much broader strap-like leaves.

## FLOWERING

Summer

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

Autumn

## LIFE CYCLE

Seeds. Water dispersed, also deliberate planting.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1993

## ORIGIN

Eastern USA and South America.

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental aquarium plant

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not usually controlled in New Zealand, but may be controlled manually, or mechanically.



## ETYMOLOGY

**subulata:** From the Latin subulam 'awl', meaning awl-shaped

## ATTRIBUTION

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

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Kasselmann C (2003). Aquarium plants. Krieger Publishing company, Florida, 518pp.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/sagittaria-subulata/>