

# Sparganium subglobosum

## COMMON NAME

bur-reed, maru

## SYNONYMS

*Sparganium antipodum* Graeb.

## FAMILY

Sparganiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Sparganium subglobosum* Morong

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

## NVS CODE

SPASUB

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.30

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP, SO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. North and South Islands. Present throughout the North Island though often scarce over large parts of this range. In the South Island very uncommon, known from Nelson, Marlborough, north Westland and from the Canterbury Plains. Also in Australia.

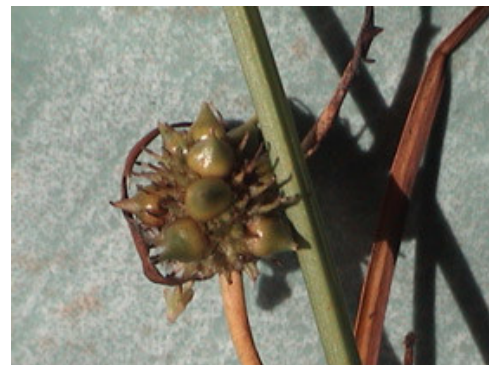
## HABITAT

Coastal to lowland (up to 400 m a.s.l.). Usually an emergent in shallow water, often on the margins of ponds, lakes and slow flowing streams. Also found in fens, and within the lagg zone of acidic bog systems. Usually preferring open sites, though sometimes found under Willows (*Salix L. spp.*) in moderately heavy shade.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).



*Sparganium subglobosum*. Photographer: Kevin Matthews, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Glabrous, summer-green, rhizomatous, perennial herb of aquatic or fertile swamps. Rhizomes ascending, long and slender. Stems usually partially submerged in water, silt, mud or peat. Plants at flowering up to 1 m tall. Leaves most arising from base, somewhat spongy to firmly fleshy; 0.3-1 m tall, up to 10 mm wide, more or less erect; sheathing base channelled; lamina dark green, green to yellow green, linear to narrow linear, deltoid to subrhomboid in cross-section, longitudinal nerves distinct; incomplete cross walls occasionally evident apex obtuse to subacute. Peduncle up to 2 mm diameter, usually shorter than leaves; lower bracts foliaceous, long, often with basal third to one half clasping peduncle. Inflorescence simple or sparingly branched; main axis bearing up to 20 globose capitula; lower 1-6 female, rest male; lateral axis often bearing only male capitula, sometimes with up to 2 female capitula below; capitula sessile and either strictly axillary or without bracts. Flowers white. Male capitula up to 15 mm diameter, flowers numerous; stamens 3 mm long, filaments much > perianth; anthers conspicuous, white, oblong, basifixed, up to 3 times as long as broad. Female capitula to 18 mm diameter, flowers up to 60; perianth scales 4-8, the inner ones smaller; ovary 4 mm long, sessile, narrowly fusiform, unilocular, ovule solitary, pendulous; style short; stigma oval, c.1/2 style-length. Fruit 6 x 3 mm, dry, indehiscent, externally hard, internal spongy; dark green to yellow-green, sessile, obovoid, style base forming a hard, prolonged beak.

## SIMILAR TAXA

None. The summer-green, soft, bright to dark green, linear leaves which are distinctly deltoid to subrhomboid in cross-section; and the simple to few-branched inflorescence bearing distinctive globose, many-flowered capitula, and/or globose spiky fruits are highly diagnostic of this species

## FLOWERING

September - April

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

November - May

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by division of established plants. Best grown in full sun with the roost permanently submerged. An excellent plant for a shallow pond or slow flowing stream. However, can be grown in partially submerged pots.

## ETYMOLOGY

**subglobosum**: From the Latin sub- 'somewhat' or 'not quite' and globosus 'globe shaped', i.e. nearly spherical

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/sparganium-subglobosum/>