

# Stellaria multiflora subsp. multiflora

## SYNONYMS

*Stellaria elatinoides* Hook.f.

## FAMILY

Caryophyllaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Stellaria multiflora* Hook.f. subsp. multiflora

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Extinct

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Extinct

2009 | Extinct

2004 | Extinct

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Australia (extant), New Zealand, North Island and South Island. In the North Island known only from collections made from the southern Hawke's Bay (Lake Rotoatara, Colenso, September 1845 (this lake was drained in 1888)). It was also reported from Cape Kidnappers. In the South Island from the Canterbury Plains (Ashburton), the Waitaki Valley (Kurow) and from Central Otago.

## HABITAT

Lowland to montane, along lake sides, in river beds, and other seasonally damp habitats. Sparse herbarium annotations suggest it grew in short grass near lake margins. One collection from the Ashburton River has *Raoulia monroi* and *Stellaria gracilentia* mixed within it.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted, glabrous, dark green to glaucescent, annual herb 15-40 mm tall. Stems decumbent to weakly suberect, usually several arising from base. Leaves dark green or glaucous. Petiole short 1-2 mm. Lamina 3-5 mm long, narrow-oblong or oblanceolate, apex subacute to acute, base cuneate. Flowers solitary; peduncles slender 3-10 mm, erect. Bracts leaf like. Sepals 2-3 mm, lanceolate, narrowly ovate-lanceolate, to linear-lanceolate, weakly 1-veined; margins finely but irregularly toothed. Petals absent. Stamens 5-10. Capsule ovoid or globose, < or = sepals. Seeds red-brown, 0.6-0.7 mm, surface with large, rounded tubercles.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Not closely allied with any of the other nine indigenous and exotic species present in New Zealand. The glaucescent to dark green leaves, diminutive tufted annual habit, and apetalous flowers readily distinguish it from the other *Stellaria* species in New Zealand.

## FLOWERING

October - November



## FRUITING

October - November

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown.

## THREATS

In New Zealand this species seems to have declined and gone extinct because of habitat modification and possibly the spread of weeds into its marginal turf and ephemeral wetland habitats. It was last collected in New Zealand in 1921 (Heenan 2019).

## ETYMOLOGY

**stellaria:** Star flower

**multiflora:** From late Latin, feminine of multiflorus meaning 'bearing many flowers'

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange (15 August 2008). Description adapted from de Lange et al. (2010).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Christchurch, Canterbury University Press. 471pp.

Heenan, P.B. 2019: Taxonomic notes on the New Zealand flora: the status of the extinct herb *Stellaria elatinoides* (Caryophyllaceae) and recognition of *Stellaria multiflora* subsp. *multiflora* from New Zealand. New Zealand Journal of Botany 57: <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2019.1645705>

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/stellaria-multiflora-subsp-multiflora/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/stellaria-multiflora-subsp-multiflora/>