

Utricularia geminiscapa

COMMON NAME

bladderwort

FAMILY

Lentibulariaceae

AUTHORITY

Utricularia geminiscapa Benj.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Spawling submerged plant often floating just under the waters surface, with finely divided thread-like leaves with tiny round bladders (often black).

DISTRIBUTION

Restricted to Westland (Westport to Haast).

HABITAT

Colonises acidic shallow water in lowland bogs, fens and pakihi.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial, free-floating aquatic, often smothering other submerged plants or floating just under the waters surface. Stolons filiform, sparingly branched; stems up to 60 cm long, c. 0.5 mm diam., terete, glabrous, internodes

SIMILAR TAXA

Utricularia australis (rare native species mostly in northern North Island) is superficially similar and at one time *U. geminiscapa* was mistakenly known as this species. The distribution ranges of these species do not currently overlap.

FLOWERING

Summer to autumn

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

Summer to autumn

LIFE CYCLE

Water fowl spread seed. Accidental spread.

YEAR NATURALISED

1975

ORIGIN

North-eastern USA and Canada

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Likely to be accidental, possibly contaminated mining machinery

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not usually controlled in New Zealand.



TOLERANCES

Survives only in very wet places.

ETYMOLOGY

utricularia: A small bladder

ATTRIBUTION

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

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Champion et al (2012). Freshwater Pests of New Zealand. NIWA publication.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/management-tools/identification-guides-and-fact-sheets/freshwater-pest-species>.

Heenan, P.B.; de Lange, P.J.; Knightsbridge, P.I. (2004). *Utricularia geminiscapa* (Lentibulariaceae), a naturalised aquatic bladderwort in the South Island, New Zealand. NZJ Bot 24: 247-251.

Salmon, B. (2001). Carnivorous plants of New Zealand. Ecosphere Publications, Auckland. 303 pp.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/utricularia-geminiscapa/>