

# Utricularia livida

## COMMON NAME

bladderwort

## FAMILY

Lentibulariaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Utricularia livida* E. Mey

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

UTRLIV

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Minute herb with wedge-shaped leaves up to 7 mm long growing from underground parts, flower stalks much larger, usually around 10 cm long, with 2 to 8 oblong violet or white flowers up to 1.5 cm long.

## DISTRIBUTION

Only known from two sites in Waitakere District, Auckland.

## HABITAT

Dune slack wetlands amongst oioi (*Apodasmia similis*).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Annual or perennial, terrestrial. Rhizoids few to many, capillary, simple. Stolons up to 5.0 cm long, few, apillary, much branched. Leaves few, usually one at peduncle base, others scattered on stolons; lamina 0.2-7.0 × 1.0-6.0 mm, narrowly cuneate or obovate to reniform, petiolate. Traps numerous on rhizoids, stolons, and leaves, 1-2 mm long, ovoid, stalked. Inflorescences 2-80 cm long, erect, solitary, simple or branched above; peduncle 0.5-2.0 mm diam., terete, glabrous. Bracts c. 1 mm long, basifixed, ovate to ovate-deltoid. Flowers 2-8, distant to congested; pedicels 1-3 mm long, terete, erect in flower, spreading or reflexed in fruit; calyx 2-5 mm long; corolla 5-15 mm long, violet, lower floral limb transversely wrinkled; filaments c. 1 mm long; ovary globose; style cylindrical, short. Capsule c. 2 mm long, globose, dehiscent by longitudinal slits. Apparently seed is not produced in naturalised populations.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Other so-called 'terrestrial' *Utricularia* species have similar leaves, although the native *U. dichotoma* and *U. delicatula* do not have wedge-shaped leaves. Two other introduced species *U. sandersonii* and *U. arenaria* have a spur that extends well beyond the lower lip of the flower.

## FLOWERING

Summer

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

## FRUITING

n/a

## LIFE CYCLE

Deliberate planting and water borne dispersal of rhizome fragments



*Utricularia livida*. Photographer: Bec Stanley, Licence: CC BY-SA.

## YEAR NATURALISED

2001

## ORIGIN

Tropical and southern Africa, Madagascar and Mexico.

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental plant

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Manual removal.

## ETYMOLOGY

**utricularia**: A small bladder

## NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

**This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord.** The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

## ATTRIBUTION

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

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Heenan, P.B.; de Lange, P.J.; Cameron, E.K.; Ogle, C.C.; Champion, P.D. (2004). Checklist of dicotyledons, gymnosperms and pteridophytes naturalised or casual in New Zealand: additional records 2001-2003. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 797-814.

## MORE INFORMATION

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