

Viola betonicifolia

COMMON NAME

arrowhead violet, arrow-leaved violet

SYNONYMS

Viola longiscapa (DC.) G.Don *V. phyteumifolia* G.Don.

FAMILY

Violaceae

AUTHORITY

Viola betonicifolia Sm.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Herbaceous perennial with leafy rosette & woody rootstock; leaves conspicuously hastate; stems to 30 cm tall; flowers purple or white.

HABITAT

In Whanganui, it has been a long-persistent perennial in cultivated pots of bulbs, defying all attempts to eradicate it manually; it spreads by seed to adjoining pots.

SIMILAR TAXA

Other small *Viola* species such as *V. arvensis* and *A. tricolor*, but easily distinguished by its hastate leaves.

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

LIFE CYCLE

Self-establishes from seed.

YEAR NATURALISED

2007

ORIGIN

Australia; also India, Pakistan, SE Asia, Papua New Guinea

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/viola-betonicifolia/>



In pot, self-sown among *Nerine* bulbs; Bastia Hill, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 27/01/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.