

# New Zealand Pigmyweed

## *Crassula helmsii*

**Habitat:** Aquatic, freshwater  
**Family name:** Crassulaceae  
**Common name:** swamp stonecrop



New Zealand pigmyweed stand

### Description:

New Zealand pigmyweed, is an aquatic or semiterrestrial species of succulent plant in the family Crassulaceae.

Originally found in Australia and New Zealand,

The shoots are rather stiff, carrying narrow parallel-sided leaves in opposite pairs, each leaf being about 4–24 millimetres.



New Zealand pigmyweed stand

The plant grows on the muddy margins of ponds where it forms carpets with 100% cover, or semi-submerged in



New Zealand pigmyweed stems

deeper water, or totally submerged with elongated stems. It does not die back in winter.

Plants form thick dense mats which can float or be submerged.



New Zealand pigmyweed flower

The thick mats cause shading of existing water plants and the depletion of

oxygen in the water, which leads to a reduction of native flora and fauna. Possible health hazard, as the thick mats can be mistaken for dry land.

The species can move onto a terrestrial habitat after it colonises an aquatic area.

Can obstruct boats and reduce the opportunities

where fishing can take place, which may impact upon local economies.



New Zealand pigmyweed stand

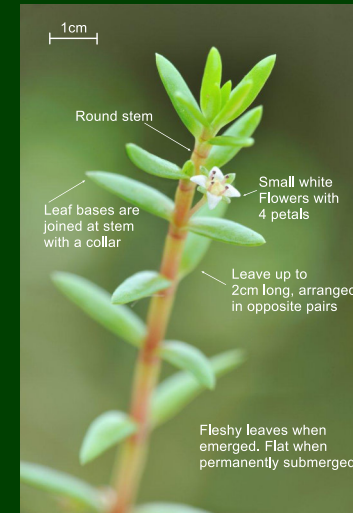
Small white flowers with four petals are produced in summer on long stalks arising from



New Zealand pigmyweed submerged

the upper leaf axils. The flowers are always above water.

Seeds can be produced but reproduction usually takes place through fragments, tiny individual plant



New Zealand pigmyweed stem

nodes are capable of producing a new viable individual.



New Zealand pigmyweed diagram



New Zealand pigmyweed terrestrial