

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering and seeding stems. Photographer Don Wood, Blundells Flat, ACT



Flowering plant. Photographer Keir Morse, California, USA



Open 'pods'. Photographer Zoya Akulova, California, USA



Line drawing in Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. Vol. 2: 162

Common name

Watercress

Family

Brassicaceae

Where found

In mud or shallow water. Widespread.

Notes

Introduced perennial herb to 2.5 m high or sprawling, **stoloniferous**. Stems angular, hairless, hollow. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 2-12 cm long, hairless, deeply **dissected** or **compound**, with 3-11 lobes or leaflets, the **terminal** lobe larger, margins scalloped to **entire**. Leaves becoming smaller up the stems. Flowers with 4 white **petals** each 2.5–6 mm long. Flowers in clusters of 10-25 flowers. Flowers spring–autumn. 'Pods' straight or curved, 1–2 cm long, 2–2.5 mm wide, pointing up or **spreading**, stalks spreading to pointing down, 8–15 mm long. Seeds in 2 rows on either side of a central division.

Reliable differentiation of this species from *Nasturtium microphyllum* requires examination of the arrangement of the seeds in the 'pods', and often microscopic examination of a seed.

PlantNET description: <https://plantnet.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=NSWfl&lvl=sp&name=Nasturtium-officinale> (accessed 20 April 2021)

Author: Betty Wood.

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