

# Monkey musk

## *Erythranthe guttata*

### Family

Scrophulariaceae (snapdragon)

### Also known as

Monkey flower, *Mimulus guttatus*

### What does it look like?

Erect perennial bog herb (<60 cm tall) with rhizome root system, stiff, thick and occasionally branched stems. Oval bright green leaves (<12 x 8 cm) are usually hairless with serrated edges. Yellow flowers (3cm diameter) with red spots on the bearded lower lip appear from Nov-March, followed by 2-valved seed capsule (1 cm long) containing many patterned seeds.

### Are there any similar species?

*Mimulus moschatus* is smaller, sticky-hairy perennial, flowers (2cm diameter) with no red blotches, common. *M. luteus* is similar, in cultivation.

### Why is it weedy?

Tolerant of cold to hot, wind, semi-shade, most soils. Fast growing, has creeping rhizomes root system, and seeds and fragments of root system are widely dispersed.

### How does it spread?

Seeds and fragments of rhizome roots in water, dumped soil, vegetation, and drain and pond contents.

### What damage does it do?

Invades freshwater margins, replacing native species.

### Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Swamps, lakes, streams, wet places throughout NZ.

### What can I do to get rid of it?

Physical removal - Dig out small patches on land. Use a rake to gather and remove the weed from water. Ensure the plant material is left to rot away from the water body

### What can I do to stop it coming back?

Plant tall species to create shade. Begin control at top of catchment.



[www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz)



Photo: Trevor James



Photo: Trevor James

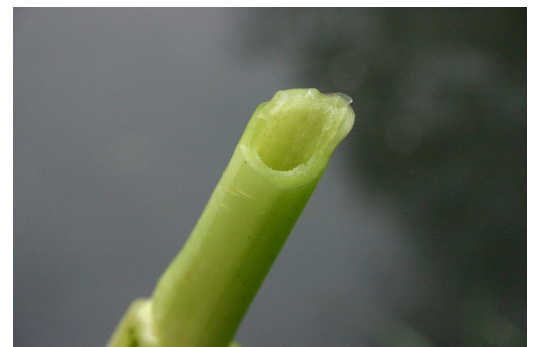


Photo: Trevor James