

Oenanthe sarmentosa

COMMON NAME

American horsebane

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Oenanthe sarmentosa DC.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Sprawling floating marginal perennial aquatic plant up to 1.5 m tall. Foliage is divided but less so than horsebane, stems are hollow and green in colour.

DISTRIBUTION

Locally common in the vicinity of Greymouth, Westland.

HABITAT

Stream edges and swamps.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Biennial to perennial sprawling herb up to 1.5 m tall, with floating stems hollow, grooved, green, usually rooting at the nodes. Emergent leaves bipinnate, tripinnate on lower branches with segments up 10-35 mm long, segments lobed. Submerged leaves absent. Flowers in an umbel, either terminal or opposite a leaf 2-5 cm diameter, with 10-20 rays. Subtending bracts 1 or lacking. Flowers white c. 2 mm diameter. Fruit cylindrical 2.5-3.5 mm long, prominently ribbed.

SIMILAR TAXA

Horsebane (*Oenanthe aquatica*) and water celery (*Apium nodiflorum*). Horsebane has more divided leaves with shorter segments. Water celery has less divided (pinnate) leaves.

FLOWERING

Summer

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

Summer-autumn

LIFE CYCLE

Vegetative spread by stoloniferous growth and by floating seeds.

YEAR NATURALISED

1975

ORIGIN

W. North America



REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown, possibly a seed contaminant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

ETYMOLOGY

sarmentosa: Twiggy

ATTRIBUTION

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

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/oenanthе-sarmentosa/>