

Ageratina adenophora

COMMON NAMES

Mexican devil

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect, many-stemmed herb to subshrub to 1-2 m. Perennial fibrous rootstock. Stems often die back in winter, densely covered in stalked sticky hairs, usually purple, becoming woody, with branches in opposite pairs, often with galls formed by parasitic fly. Leaves in opposite pairs, 55-80 x 35-70 mm, diamond-shaped, margins irregularly roundtoothed. Flowers small, white, 5-7 mm diam, in dense terminal clusters, Aug-Dec. Seeds black, 5-angled, 1.8 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be distinguished from mist flower (*A. riparia*) by the broader leaf shape and stalked glandular hairs without stripes (DoC, 1998).

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Lightly shaded frost-free areas, e.g. forest edges, shrublands, wetlands, streamsides, open forest, inshore and offshore islands, gumlands, slips, alluvial flats, coast and estuaries.

GENUS

Ageratina

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Ageratina adenophora (Spreng.) R.M.King & H.Rob.

SYNONYMS

Eupatorium adenophorum, *Eupatorium glandulosum*

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March.

FRUITING

Late Summer-Autumn? (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

YEAR NATURALISED

1931



Ageratina adenophora. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Ageratina adenophora. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ORIGIN

Mexico

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental.

TOLERANCES

The plant is intolerant to shade, frost and poor drainage(?) and tolerant to drought (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. The plant has a life span of a few years and produces seed (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995) drooping stems can layer. Seed dispersal is by wind, water, vertebrates and road mowers.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

adenophora: From the Greek aden 'gland' and phoreo 'to bear'

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

NVS CODE

AGEADE

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ageratina-adenophora/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026