

Bidens pilosa

COMMON NAME

cobbler's pegs

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Bidens pilosa L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

BIDPIL

SIMILAR TAXA

This annual plant grows up to around 1.5 - 2 m tall. There are 3 -5 leaflets, which are tapered ovals with serrated margins. They are bright green, slightly hairy and on brown stems with parallel ridges. The numerous terminal flowers are yellow in a tightly packed head (approximately 7 mm across). (Ermert and Clapp 1998)

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

YEAR NATURALISED

1832

ORIGIN

unknown

ETYMOLOGY

bidens: From the Latin bi- 'two' and dens 'teeth', the seed having two tooth-like projections

Reason For Introduction

Accidental

Dispersal

The 'Cobbler's pegs' are the seeds, which are dark brown or black, slender and have barbed ends, which allows them to catch in material or fur. The pegs are in a ball or starburst formation on the plant with the barbs on the outer edge. (Ermert and Clapp 1998)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/bidens-pilosa/>



Motukakarikitahi, June. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Bidens pilosa. Photographer: John Barkla