

# Bidens tripartita

## COMMON NAMES

swamp beggar's ticks

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Tall upright annual, up to 80 cm tall, with divided leaves, small yellow button-like flowers and characteristic flat black seeds usually with three barbed teeth easily attaching to clothing and hair.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect, glabrous or almost glabrous annual, 10-80 cm tall. Stems angled, branched above to form infl. Leaves petiolate, usually simple and not lobed, sometimes deeply 1-pinnatisect with 3-5 segments, 3-10-(20) cm long; lamina or segments narrowly ovate-elliptic to lanceolate, coarsely and often unevenly serrate, acuminate. Upper cauline lvs becoming smaller, shortly petiolate or apetiolate, not lobed and less distinctly serrate. Capitula 4-10 mm diam. Outer involucral bracts 3-4, foliaceous, glabrous, linear, 6-12 mm long; inner bracts many, membranous, ovate-elliptic to ovate-triangular, 5-8 mm long, with dark lined centre and pale margins. Receptacular scales similar to inner bracts but narrower. Florets all hermaphrodite; tubular, yellow-orange. Achenes flattened, ovate-cuneate to obtriangular, with 1 slender to prominent rib on each face, dark brown, ciliate and otherwise glabrous to sparsely hairy, 5-8 mm long; awns 2-4, often unequal, 0.5-2.7 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from the two other *Bidens* species found in New Zealand (*B. frondosa*, *B. pilosa*) by the lower simple lower cauline leaves rather than lower cauline leaves which are lobed or 1-pinnatisect; by the capitula being 4-10 mm diameter, and by the achenes which have 3-4 awns

## DISTRIBUTION

Naturalised. South Island, West Coast from Karamea to Hokitika.

## HABITAT

Water body margins and swamps.

## GENUS

*Bidens*

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Bidens tripartita* L.

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

Summer



## FRUITING

Autumn

## YEAR NATURALISED

1975

## ORIGIN

Temperate Eurasia

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Probably a seed or soil contaminant.

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Animal dispersed seed.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Clapham, A.R.; Tutin, T.G.; Warburg, E.F. 1962: Flora of the British Isles. Cambridge University Press, Second Edition. 1269pp.

Johnson P.N.; Brooke P.A. 1989: Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Description from Webb et al. (1988)

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## MORE INFORMATION

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

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