

Bidens tripartita

COMMON NAME

swamp beggar's ticks

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Bidens tripartita L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF 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.

DISTRIBUTION

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

HABITAT

Water body margins and swamps.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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

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 apetalate, 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

FLOWERING

Summer

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

Autumn

LIFE CYCLE

Animal dispersed seed.



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.

ETYMOLOGY

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

ATTRIBUTION

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

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.

MORE INFORMATION

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