Carduus pycnocephalus

COMMON NAMES
slender winged thistle

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS
Violet/Purple

SIMILAR TAXA
Wings of upper stem < 2mm wide between clusters of teeth; capitula shortly pedunculate or subsessile, in terminal clusters of 2-3-(5), also solitary, sessile, and axillary on stems; involucral bracts with midvein raised in upper 1/2.

GENUS
Carduus

FAMILY
Asteraceae

AUTHORITY
Carduus pycnocephalus L.

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

YEAR NATURALISED
1944

ORIGIN
S. and S.E. Europe, N.W. Africa

ETYMOLOGY
carduus: From the Greek word kardos which means thistle.

NVS CODE
CARPYC

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carduus-pycnocephalus/

PDF DATE
25 May 2026

Wainuiomata River mouth. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 26/12/2006, Licence: CC BY.

Pappus hair. Wainuiomata River mouth. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 26/12/2006, Licence: CC BY.