

Cirsium brevistylum

COMMON NAMES

woolly-headed thistle

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Taprooted perennial. Stems branched above, with coarse cobwebby hairs especially below, (25)-60-130-(200) cm tall, strongly ribbed, not winged. Leaves lanceolate to narrow elliptic, shallowly pinnatifid, green above, whitish beneath, (6)-10-25-(30) X (2)-3-7-(10) cm, with sparse soft multicellular hairs above and dense cobwebby tomentum beneath; lobes deltoid; prickles pale, 5-10 mm long. Capitula ovoid, waisted at flowering, erect, 2.5-3.5 X 2.5-3 cm, subsessile, in clusters or 3-4 or rarely solitary. Outer involucral bracts deltoid to lanceolate, with cobwebby hairs; apex acuminate, with strong spine 3-4-(6) mm long, suberect or erecto-patent. Inner involucral bracts linear, with short fine bristly hairs at least on margins; apex acute, not spinous, erect. Corolla purplish red, 18-25 mm long; lobes c. 3 mm long. Style not or barely exerted beyond corolla lobes. Achnes pale, narrowly obovoid, 3-4 X c. 1.5 mm; pappus 15-25 mm long; cilia on pappus bristles 3-5 mm long. (Webb et al 1988)

SIMILAR TAXA

Stems not winged; lamina with sparse soft multicellular hairs above; corolla 18-25mm long; stigma not, or barely exerted beyond corolla lobes.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Grassland, Pastures, Riverflats, roadsides, waste land

GENUS

Cirsium

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Cirsium brevistylum Cronquist

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December, January (February)

FRUITING

(December) - January - February



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YEAR NATURALISED

1899

ORIGIN

W. N. America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Accidental

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial herb

ETYMOLOGY

cirsium: A kind of thistle

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cirsium-brevistylum/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026