

# Erigeron bilbaoanus

## COMMON NAME

fleabane

## SYNONYMS

*Conyza bilbaoana* J.Rémy; *C. canadensis* (hence common name of Canadian fleabane)

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Erigeron bilbaoanus* (Remy) Cabrera

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

CONBIL

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The plant has hairy leaves and a branched hairy stem to 1.5 m tall. It has numerous dingy cream heads 1.5-2.5 mm diameter, the heads usually with purple tinge when mature. The involucral bracts surrounding each head (capitulum) are less hairy than in the similar (and usually more common) *E. sumatrensis*.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*E. bonariensis* is easily distinguished from the other common weedy *Erigeron* spp. by its narrow leaves, usually twisted and with wavy or undulate margins and by its larger flower heads (capitula). *E. bilbaoanus* has its bracts around each capitulum (the involucral bracts) much less hairy than those of *E. bonariensis* and *E. sumatrensis*, the latter two being distinguished most readily by the twisted vs flat leaves.

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## YEAR NATURALISED

1855

## ORIGIN

S.America

## ETYMOLOGY

**erigeron:** From the Greek *eri* 'early' (or ear 'spring') and *geron* 'old', possibly alluding to the hairy seed pappus, or perhaps to the hoary appearance of the leaves of some species in the spring.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/erigeron-bilbaoanus/>



Gravel track edge, Gordon Park Scenic Reserve, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin Ogle



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