

Erigeron sumatrensis

COMMON NAME

broad-leaved flea-bane

SYNONYMS

Conyza albida (Willdenow), *Conyza sumatrensis* (Retz.) E.H.Walker

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Erigeron sumatrensis Retz.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

CONSUM

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The plant has a branched hairy flower stalk 30 to 60 cm high, with leaves tapering to both ends (Hilgendorf 1926). The plant has numerous dingy cream heads 0.5 cm in diameter, with red-purple tinge.

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 involucre 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

1957

ORIGIN

Subtropical S. America. Also known in New Zealand as *Conyza albida* Spreng.

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-sumatrensis/>



Hutt River north of Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Erigeron sumatrensis stem and leaves. Hutt River north of Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt.
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