

Eupatorium cannabinum

COMMON NAMES

hemp agrimony

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Tall upright herb with downy hairy branches up to 2 m tall, leaves in pairs, stalked and divided into 3 segments, each with toothed edges, flowerheads a flat mass of small pink flowers on top of each stem.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb with a woody rootstock, shoots erect 0.3-2 m, simple or short branched, downy striate. Basal leaves oblanceolate, petiolate; cauline leaves sessile, 3 (-5)-pinnate with elliptic-acuminate toothed pinnae 5-10 cm, short glandular-hairy. Inflorescence a dense terminal corymb, each head with 5-6 reddish-mauve to white florets, 1-2 mm diameter and c. 10 oblong purple-tipped involucral bracts c. 6 mm. Achenes blackish, 5-angled, gland dotted, pappus whitish.

SIMILAR TAXA

Not similar to other wetland plants with possible exception of *Bidens* spp. that lack hairs and have coarser toothed leaflets.

DISTRIBUTION

Locally well established in South Taranaki and Wanganui District.

HABITAT

Wetlands and riparian margins of water bodies, particularly areas that are rich in Nitrogen.

GENUS

Eupatorium

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Eupatorium cannabinum L.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

January - March

FRUITING

Autumn



Eupatorium cannabinum. Photographer: Graeme La Cock, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Kakaramea, Patea. Feb 1999. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

YEAR NATURALISED

1975

ORIGIN

Eurasia, North West Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental plant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Produces thousands of tiny wind dispersed seeds. Also has the potential to spread by water and contaminated machinery, deliberate planting.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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

ETYMOLOGY

eupatorium: Commemorating Mithridates Eupator, king of Pontus and Armenia Minor in northern Anatolia (now Turkey) from about 120–63 BC, who is said to have discovered one of the species as an antidote for poison.

cannabinum: Like Cannabis, hemp

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

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.

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. (1988). *Flora of New Zealand Volume 4: Naturalised pteridophytes, gymnosperms, dicotyledons*. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/eupatorium-cannabinum/>

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