

Haloragis erecta subsp. erecta

COMMON NAME

toatoa, fire weed, shrubby haloragis

SYNONYMS

Cercodia erecta Murray, *Haloragis colensoi* Skottsb.

FAMILY

Haloragaceae

AUTHORITY

Haloragis erecta (Murray) Oken subsp. *erecta*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

HALESE

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 14

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Kermadec, North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane in forest or scrub. Often on slip scars or colonising recently cleared ground. Often appearing following fire (hence one of the common names).

FEATURES

Perennial herb or subshrub. Stems to c.1 m tall, decumbent to erect, freely branching, 4-angled, glabrous or scabrid. Leaves opposite. Petiole (0.2)-0.5-1.7-(3) cm long. Lamina (12-)-15-70(-90) × (3-)-5-25(-35) mm, lanceolate to elliptic or oblong-elliptic, strongly serrate with teeth to 4 mm long, glabrous or scabridulous; lateral veins obscure; base cuneate to truncate. Dichasia of 3-7 flowers; primary bracts ± serrate. Pedicels 0.5-0.6 mm long, to 1 mm at fruiting, deflexed until anthesis. Flowers 4-merous, often reddish. Sepals 0.8-1.2 mm long, deltoid, erect, persistent. Petals 1.5-.0(-2.5) mm long. Stamens 8. Anthers 1.2-1.7 mm long, oblong, red or yellow, the inner < outer. Ovary 4-celled, ribbed. Stigmas ± pink. Fruit 1.8-3.0 × 1.5-2.5(-4.0) mm (including the usually present, variable, deltoid wings), usually ovoid, rugose or smooth between ribs or wings.



Coromandel, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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

SIMILAR TAXA

None. The Surville Cliffs endemic *H. erecta* subsp. *cartilaginea* (Cheeseman) Orchard is scarcely any different. The main differences are its decumbent rather than erect habit and orbicular to broad-ovate leaves. In cultivation plants of this subspecies often become suberect, laxer, and the leaves less harshly scabrid.

FLOWERING

Throughout the year

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Yellow

FRUITING

Throughout the year

LIFE CYCLE

Fruit are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by cuttings. A somewhat weedy species which often appears following disturbance within forest and scrub, and which can at times appear within unkept gardens and wasteland within urban areas. Some forms are dark purple-red or maroon in colour.

ETYMOLOGY

haloragis: Salt grapes

erecta: Erect

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (3 November 2005). Description based on Webb et al. (1988) and observations made from fresh material.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Cunningham, A. 1839: *Florae insularum Novae Zelandiae precursor; or a specimen of the botany of the islands of New Zealand. Annals of Natural History* 3: 29-34. Moorfield, J. C. (2005). *Te aka : Maori-English, English-Maori dictionary and index*. Pearson Longman: Auckland, N.Z. Orchard, A.E. 1975: Taxonomic Revisions in the Family Haloragaceae. I. The Genera *Haloragis*, *Haloragodendron*, *Glischrocaryon*, *Meziella* and *Gonocarpus*. *Bull.Auckland Inst.Mus.* 10: 1-299. Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309
Webb, C. J.; Sykes, W. R.; Garnock-Jones, P. J. 1988: *Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons*. Christchurch, New Zealand, Botany Division, D.S.I.R.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/haloragis-erecta-subsp-erecta/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/haloragis-erecta-subsp-erecta/>