

Oenanthe sarmentosa

COMMON NAMES

American horsebane

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Sprawling floating marginal perennial aquatic plant up to 1.5 m tall. Foliage is divided but less so than horsebane, stems are hollow and green in colour.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Biennial to perennial sprawling herb up to 1.5 m tall, with floating stems hollow, grooved, green, usually rooting at the nodes. Emergent leaves bipinnate, tripinnate on lower branches with segments up 10-35 mm long, segments lobed. Submerged leaves absent. Flowers in an umbel, either terminal or opposite a leaf 2-5 cm diameter, with 10-20 rays. Subtending bracts 1 or lacking. Flowers white c. 2 mm diameter. Fruit cylindric 2.5-3.5 mm long, prominently ribbed.

SIMILAR TAXA

Horsebane (*Oenanthe aquatica*) and water celery (*Apium nodiflorum*). Horsebane has more divided leaves with shorter segments. Water celery has less divided (pinnate) leaves.

DISTRIBUTION

Locally common in the vicinity of Greymouth, Westland.

HABITAT

Stream edges and swamps.

GENUS

Oenanthe

FAMILY

Apiaceae

AUTHORITY

Oenanthe sarmentosa DC.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Summer

FRUITING

Summer-autumn

YEAR NATURALISED

1975



ORIGIN

W. North America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown, possibly a seed contaminant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Vegetative spread by stoloniferous growth and by floating seeds.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

sarmentosa: Twiggy

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

ATTRIBUTION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/oenanthе-sarmentosa/>

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