Persicaria strigosa

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION
Prickly scrambling herb, either forming dense patches or scrambling through other vegetation, leaves mostly triangular in outline with backward pointing lobes, small (2 to 3 mm long) pink flowers in open branched flowerheads at the top of stem.

FLOWER COLOURS
Red/Pink, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Annual herb; stems to > 50 cm long, lax or sprawling, with numerous deflexed scabrid bristles to c. 1 mm long; roots slender. Lvs ± similar; petiole to 1 cm long, filiform, scabrid. Lamina 3-7 × 0.5-1.2 cm, linear-lanceolate; midrib below with scattered bristles; margin ciliolate, entire; base ± hastate or sagittate; apex obtuse or subacute. Ochreae usually 1-1.5 cm long, glabrous, soon brown and papery; apex truncate. Racemes terminal or in axils of upper lvs, to 12 cm long, very slender; fls few, distant. Peduncles dichotomous, conspicuously glandular-hairy, > lvs; pedicels very short, hidden by sheathing, glabrous or glabrate bracts until after anthesis. Perianth 2-3 mm long, accrescent, pink; segments ± broadly ovate-elliptic, imbricate and remaining almost closed, eglandular. Nut 2-2.5 mm long (including short beak), broad-ovoid or ellipsoid, brown, shining.

SIMILAR TAXA
Unlike any other willow weed, with prickly stems and leaves and the sprawling growth habit.

DISTRIBUTION
Northland to northern Waikato.

HABITAT
Swamp and water body margins.

GENUS
Persicaria

FAMILY
Polygonaceae

AUTHORITY
Persicaria strigosa (R.Br.) H. Gross

SYNONYMS
Polygonum strigosum R.Br.



Persicaria strigosa - Whangamarino Wetland, Waikato. Photographer: Mike Wilcox, Date taken: 28/02/2010, Licence: All rights reserved.



Persicaria strigosa - Whangamarino Wetland, Waikato. Photographer: Mike Wilcox, Date taken: 28/02/2010, Licence: All rights reserved.

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
January to February

FRUITING
Autumn

YEAR NATURALISED
1976

ORIGIN
Eastern Australia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Unknown, seed or soil contaminant.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES
Not controlled in New Zealand.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Seed dispersed by water, animals or contaminated machinery.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
FACW: Facultative Wetland
Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY
persicaria: Medieval name referring to the likeness of the leaves to a peach tree

NVS CODE
PERSTR

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.
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
Prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Webb et al. (1988).
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MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/persicaria-strigosa/

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