

# Persicaria strigosa

## SYNONYMS

*Polygonum strigosum* R.Br.

## FAMILY

Polygonaceae

## AUTHORITY

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

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

POLSTR

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## BRIEF 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.

## DISTRIBUTION

Northland to northern Waikato.

## HABITAT

Swamp and water body margins.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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

## 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.

## FLOWERING

January to February



*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.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## FRUITING

Autumn

## LIFE CYCLE

Seed dispersed by water, animals or contaminated machinery.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1976

## ORIGIN

Eastern Australia

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown, seed or soil contaminant.

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## ATTRIBUTION

Prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Webb et al. (1988).

## 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.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/persicaria-strigosa/>