

Plectranthus ciliatus

COMMON NAME

plectranthus

FAMILY

Lamiaceae

AUTHORITY

Plectranthus ciliatus E.Mey.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

PLECIL

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. A plant that grows in the shade (Forester pers. comm. 1996). Likes some shade and well-drained soils (Anon., 1997: Pestfacts 48, ARC). A plant of forested stream banks (Forester pers. comm. 1996). Shady areas in and around forest margins, plantations, hedges, disturbed or low forest (Webb et al., 1988).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Herb or subshrub with stems trailing or straggling and densely covered in purple hairs; leaves 5-12 x 3.5-7cm, broad-ovate, shining, purple below, hairy; flowers along stalks up to 30cm long, sometimes with short lateral branches at base; flowers white with purple dots inside; nutlets about 1.5mm diameter, dark brown (Webb et al., 1988).

SIMILAR TAXA

Leaves are dotted with glands and have a strong, pungent smell.

FLOWERING

December, January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. A plant that rampantly grows vegetatively. Spreads vegetatively by runners. Seed are not adapted for bird, wind or water dispersal therefore are only a minor factor in its spread.

YEAR NATURALISED

1975

ORIGIN

E and S Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Resistant to frost (if growing under trees).



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ETYMOLOGY

plectranthus: From the Greek plektron (spur) and anthos (flower), referring to the spurred flowers

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/plectranthus-ciliatus/>