

Plectranthus ciliatus

COMMON NAMES

plectranthus

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

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.

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).

GENUS

Plectranthus

FAMILY

Lamiaceae

AUTHORITY

Plectranthus ciliatus E.Mey.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

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

YEAR NATURALISED

1975

ORIGIN

E and S Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental



Plectranthus ciliatus. Photographer: Richard Hursthouse, Licence: CC BY.



Plectranthus ciliatus. Photographer: Richard Hursthouse, Licence: CC BY.

TOLERANCES

Resistant to frost (if growing under trees).

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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.

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](#).

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

NVS CODE

PLECIL

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

25 May 2026