

Scrophularia auriculata

COMMON NAMES

Water figwort

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Upright large leaved herb, up to 80 cm tall, often forming dense stands, stems are square in cross-section, leaves are arranged in pairs, up to 18 cm long and 6 cm across, smaller towards the top of the stem, flowers are small (up to 3.5 mm long) and brown, produced in a large flower head at the top of the stem.

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Red/Pink

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial, lacking nodular roots; stems to c. 80 cm high, narrowly winged just below infl. and above first few cymes. Petioles to 10 cm long on basal lvs, much less on stem lvs. Lamina 6-18 × 2-6 cm, smaller below infl., oblong, ovate-oblong or elliptic-oblong, hairy at first, becoming glabrous above and often glabrate below later, crenate or less commonly crenate-serrate; base subcordate to rounded, sometimes very oblique or with 1-2 small basal leaflets; apex obtuse or rounded. Cymes in panicles in the axils of mostly linear bracts, shortly glandular hairy; rachis angled. Pedicels usually several × > fls, but sometimes shorter. Calyx 2-3.5 mm long; lobes broad-ovate with scarious margin 0.5-1 mm wide and becoming lacerate. Corolla 7-10 mm long, greenish below, reddish brown or purplish brown above, especially the erect, rounded larger lobes of the upper lip. Staminode orbicular or suborbicular, entire. Capsule c. 5 mm long, ovoid or subglobose. Seed ribbed, ± truncate or obtuse.

SIMILAR TAXA

One other *Scrophularia*, knotted figwort (*S. nodosa*) has been collected from Canterbury and Southland, but is not a wetland plant, distinguished by the deeply toothed rather than crenate leaves and lacking the winged stems beneath the inflorescence.

DISTRIBUTION

Scattered and local in northern North Island and also at one site in Otago.

HABITAT

Margins of water bodies and also on roadsides and wet pasture in high rainfall areas.

GENUS

Scrophularia

FAMILY

Scrophulariaceae



Whanganui River. Feb 2008. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Scrophularia auriculata L. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

AUTHORITY

Scrophularia auriculata L.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

August to April

FRUITING

Spring to autumn

YEAR NATURALISED

1940

ORIGIN

Western Europe and North Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental plant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Seed dispersed by water and contaminated machinery.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

auriculata: Small-eared

NVS CODE

SCRAUR

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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.

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). Features description from Webb et al. (1988).

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/scrophularia-auriculata/>

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