

Verbena rigida

COMMON NAMES

Creeping verbena

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial with creeping underground stems; aerial parts densely scabrid with many hairs bulbous-based; aerial stems spreading towards base, then ascending to c. 1 m tall, square. **Leaves** sessile, 3-10 × 1-2 cm; basal lvs often obovate; stem lvs narrow-elliptic or elliptic-oblong, sharply dentate or serrate; veins impressed; base ± amplexicaul except in basal lvs; apex acute. Inflorescences with several branches, densely hairy; spikes mostly 1.5-2.5 cm long at maximum flowering, elongating to 5 cm long at fruiting, stout; fls dense. **Bracts** 6-10 mm long, narrow-lanceolate to lanceolate, subulate, rigidly ciliate, somewhat glandular, purple, prominently keeled, well-exserted beyond calyx. **Calyx** 4-5 mm long; teeth subulate, glandular-hairy, purple. **Corolla** purple, sometimes drying deep blue; tube 2-3× length of calyx, hairy outside; limb 5-7 mm diam. **Nutlets** 1.5-2 mm long, oblong, ± light brown, longitudinally ribbed dorsally, white-papillate on flattened ventral surface.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island, South Island: scattered localities as far South as Canterbury.

HABITAT

Cultivation escape around gardens, especially by hedges, on roadsides and waste places, occasionally on arable land.

GENUS

Verbena

FAMILY

Verbenaceae

AUTHORITY

Verbena rigida Spreng.

FLOWERING

January-December

YEAR NATURALISED

1926

ORIGIN

South Brazil, Uruguay



Verbena rigida. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ETYMOLOGY

rigida: Rigid

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb C.J., Sykes W.R., & Garnock-Jones P.J. (1988). *Flora of New Zealand Volume 4*. DSIR, Botany Division.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (5 March 2022). Brief description and Distribution sections are copied from Webb *et al.* (1988).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/verbena-rigida/>

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