

Xanthium spinosum

COMMON NAMES

Bathurst bur

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

An erect, spined plant, annual, growing up to a metre. Spines on the stem are straight but those on the fruit are hooked, enabling seed dispersal in animal fur, wool etc. Leaf underside covered with dense grey-white tomentum. Can be distinguished from *X. stromarium* by the axillary spines and the short-beaked fruiting involucre.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be distinguished from *X. stromarium* by the axillary spines and the short-beaked fruiting involucre.

GENUS

Xanthium

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Xanthium spinosum L.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December, January, February, March, April

FRUITING

Dec-July

YEAR NATURALISED

1867

ORIGIN

South America

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Dispersed on animal wool, fur etc. or clinging to packs, bags, clothing and any fibrous material. Burs also float on water and are moved rapidly along watercourses.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/xanthium-spinosum/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026



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