

Centipeda elatinoidea

COMMON NAME

sneezeweed, snuff weed

SYNONYMS

Myriogyne elatinoidea Less, Cotula foetida Peopp. ex DC., Centipeda orbicularis var. sternutatoria (Roxb.) Bailey

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Centipeda elatinoidea (Less.) Benth. et Hook. ex O.Hoffm.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 20

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Data Deficient | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island, South Island. Exact distribution unclear as this species has been recognised in New Zealand only since 2001. Present in Australia and Chile (South America)

HABITAT

Coastal to lowland (0–300 m a.s.l.). Usually on recently exposed muddy ground on seasonally inundated sites, e.g., shallow lake and lake margins. ephemeral ponds, river and stream banks and in seepages.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).



DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Prostrate annual to perennial herb, all parts glabrous to glabrescent, usually with short arachnoid hairs near growing tips; branches spreading, up to 300 mm long, rooting from lower nodes. **Leaves** alternate, obovate to narrowly obovate, 6–20 × 2.5–8 mm, glaucous green to green, margins entire or finely crenate, resin-dotted. Inflorescence a single, shortly pedunculate, leaf opposed capitulum. **Peduncle** 0.5–3 mm long. **Capitula** at flowering biconvex to hemispherical, 3–5 mm diameter, involucre bracts 1–2-seriate, obovate, 1–1.5 mm long; receptacle convex; female (outer) florets 40–80, in 2–4 rows, cylindrical, 0.2–0.4 mm, green or yellow-green; bisexual (inner) florets 4–14, obconic, 0.5–0.7 mm, purplish. **Fruiting head** disarticulating before stem senescence. **Cypselas** of female and bisexual florets similar, narrowly obovate, 1.2–2 mm, obtuse at apex, flattened, 3–4-angled in section, ribs clothed with antrorse appressed hairs, pericarp slightly thickened at or close to apex.

SIMILAR TAXA

In New Zealand *C. elatinooides* has been confused with *C. cunninghamii*, *C. aotearoana*, and *C. minima* subsp. *minima*. However, it is most frequently confused with *C. minima* subsp. *minima* from which it differs by its larger foliage, capitula, cypselas and usually perennial habit. The presence of fine arachnoid hairs toward the branch apices is also rather diagnostic of this species.

FLOWERING

September–May

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

FRUITING

October–July

LIFE CYCLE

Cypselas dispersed by wind, attachment and granivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from rooted pieces and fresh seed. Rather invasive but ideal as a ground cover on poorly draining but exposed ground. The foliage is pleasantly aromatic.

ETYMOLOGY

centipeda: From the Greek word for one hundred feet

elatinooides: Resembling Elatine - a superficially similar plant of wetlands and fresh water bodies

NOTES ON TAXONOMY

Collectively the four species now recognised from New Zealand were all regarded by Allan (1961) as *C. orbicularis*, a later synonym of *C. minima*. Webb et al. (1988) were the first to recognise *C. minima* and *C. cunninghamii* as present in New Zealand. However they regarded *C. cunninghamii* as introduced. NZPCN does not because it is just as likely it arrived naturally in New Zealand via water fowl. *C. elatinooides* could also be regarded as introduced but this too seems unlikely for much the same reasons.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 5 May 2005. Description adapted from Walsh (2001).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

Walsh NG. 2001. A revision of *Centipeda* (Asteraceae). *Muelleria* 15: 33–64.

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/207394#page/35/mode/1up>.

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ. 1988. Flora of New Zealand, Volume IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Christchurch, NZ. 1365 p.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/centipeda-elerinoides/>