

# Ageratina riparia

## COMMON NAME

mist flower

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Ageratina riparia* (Regel) R.M.King & H.Rob.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## NVS CODE

AGERIP

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Humid subtropical and tropical rainforests (W.T. Parsons & E.G. Cuthbertson 2001). In NZ, coastal, lowland (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Forest margin, damp banks and streamsides, slips (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). In Australia, shaded riverbanks, steep south facing hillsides in areas where annual rainfall exceeds 1700mm (W.T. Parsons & E.G. Cuthbertson 2001).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect or sprawling, many-stemmed herb to subshrub to 0.5-1.5 m. Perennial fibrous rootstock. Stems occ die back in winter, covered in purple-striped non-sticky hairs, usually purple, becoming woody, with branches in opposite pairs. Leaves in opposite pairs, 60-100 x 15-25 mm, willow-like, coarsely serrate except near base. Flowers small, white, 4-5 mm diam, in terminal clusters, Aug-Jan. Seeds black, 5-angled, 2 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Distinctive toothed leaves separate mistflower from Mexican devil

## FLOWERING

August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

June–September (W.T. Parsons & E.G. Cuthbertson 2001)

## LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Reproduces by seed. Plants may re-grow following disturbance if roots (occasionally stems) contact ground. Drooping stems can layer in wet sites. Dispersed by wind, water, road mowing machines (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Many seeds produced (ibid.)

## YEAR NATURALISED

1931



*Ageratina riparia*. Photographer: Graeme La Cock, Licence: CC BY-NC.



*Ageratina riparia*. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## ORIGIN

Mexico, W. Indies

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

## TOLERANCES

Tolerant of deep shade and damp, damage and grazing, salt, most soils

## ETYMOLOGY

**riparia:** From the Latin ripa 'streambank or 'riverbank' and the suffix -aris which gives the sense 'belonging to' or 'resembling'. Riparia means growing on the banks of streams or rivers

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ageratina-riparia/>