

# Ageratina riparia

## COMMON NAMES

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

## ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

**This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC.** 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

17 September 2024