

# Verbena brasiliensis

## COMMON NAME

Brazilian vervain

## SYNONYMS

*Verbena quadrangularis* Vell., *Verbena hansenii* Greene, *Verbena litoralis* forma *angustifolia* Chod., *Verbena approximata* Briq., *Verbena brasiliensis* var. *subglabrata* Moldenke, *Verbena chacensis* Moldenke, *Verbena litoralis* Kunth var. *congesta* Moldenke

## FAMILY

Verbenaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Verbena brasiliensis* P.Vell.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## DISTRIBUTION

**North Island. South Island.** In New Zealand *V. brasiliensis* is a rare weed found in the Far North in Hokianga and the Bay of Islands, as well as Westport on the West Coast of the South Island.

Introduced in Northern America, Mexico (Michoacan, Nuevo León, Sinaloa), Europe, Africa (South Africa), Madagascar, Australia.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**Plants** annual or short-lived perennial, taprooted or with ligneous fibrous roots. **Stems** erect, 70–150(–250) cm, sparsely to moderately hispid. Leaves persistent, lanceolate to rhombic-lanceolate 8 or lanceolate-elliptic, cuneate-attenuate at base, midstem blades (2–)5–8 cm x 10–25 mm, veins impressed adaxially, adaxially strigose-hirsute, abaxially hirsute mostly along the veins, margins serrate; petioles absent. **Spikes** in 3s, forming compound cymes, the central sessile to subsessile on peduncles 0–5(–10) mm, inflorescence aspect corymbiform, comprising relatively compact and distinct clusters and subclusters, central and laterals dense and thick in fruit, (5–)10–30(–50) mm x 3–5 mm; floral bracts narrowly lanceolate, 2.5–4 mm, about equal or longer than the calyces. **Calyces** (2.5–)3–3.5 mm, loosely strigose to hirsute-strigose, eglandular, lobes connivent. **Corollas** usually purple to blue or blue-violet, tubes 3–4 mm, limbs (2–)2.5–3.5 mm in diam. **Nutlets** 1–1.4 mm, commissural faces extending to very tip of nutlets, densely papillate.  $2n = 28$ .

## SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from other members of the genus *Verbena* by the petiolate leaves, non-creeping habit, and stout flower spikelets.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

## YEAR NATURALISED

1949



In disturbed ground, Hokianga Far North.  
Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken:  
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In disturbed ground, Hokianga Far North.  
Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken:  
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## ORIGIN

Tropical America - Eastern Brazil.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (5 March 2022). Brief description and Distribution sections are copied from Nesom (2010).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Ford M. (2022). *Verbena incompta* P.W.Michael: an overlooked name for an old weed in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany*: 1–11. (Published online: 23 May 2022)

Nesom G.L. (2010). Taxonomic notes on *Verbena bonariensis* (Verbenaceae) and related species in the USA. *Phytoneuron* 12: 1–16.

## MORE INFORMATION

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