

Verbena rigida

COMMON NAME

Creeping verbena

FAMILY

Verbenaceae

AUTHORITY

Verbena rigida Spreng.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

DISTRIBUTION

North Island, South Island: scattered localities as far South as Canterbury.

HABITAT

Cultivation escape around gardens, especially by hedges, on roadsides and waste places, occasionally on arable land.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial with creeping underground stems; aerial parts densely scabrid with many hairs bulbous-based; aerial stems spreading towards base, then ascending to c. 1 m tall, square. **Leaves** sessile, 3-10 × 1-2 cm; basal lvs often obovate; stem lvs narrow-elliptic or elliptic-oblong, sharply dentate or serrate; veins impressed; base ± amplexicaul except in basal lvs; apex acute. Inflorescences with several branches, densely hairy; spikes mostly 1.5-2.5 cm long at maximum flowering, elongating to 5 cm long at fruiting, stout; fls dense. **Bracts** 6-10 mm long, narrow-lanceolate to lanceolate, subulate, rigidly ciliate, somewhat glandular, purple, prominently keeled, well-exserted beyond calyx. **Calyx** 4-5 mm long; teeth subulate, glandular-hairy, purple. **Corolla** purple, sometimes drying deep blue; tube 2-3× length of calyx, hairy outside; limb 5-7 mm diam. **Nutlets** 1.5-2 mm long, oblong, ± light brown, longitudinally ribbed dorsally, white-papillate on flattened ventral surface.

FLOWERING

January-December

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple

YEAR NATURALISED

1926

ORIGIN

South Brazil, Uruguay

ETYMOLOGY

rigida: Rigid



Verbena rigida. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (5 March 2022). Brief description and Distribution sections are copied from Webb *et al.* (1988).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb C.J., Sykes W.R., & Garnock-Jones P.J. (1988). *Flora of New Zealand Volume 4*. DSIR, Botany Division.

MORE INFORMATION

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