

# Cirsium brevistylum

## COMMON NAME

woolly-headed thistle

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Cirsium brevistylum* Cronquist

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Grassland, Pastures, Riverflats, roadsides, waste land

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Taprooted perennial. Stems branched above, with coarse cobwebby hairs especially below, (25)-60-130-(200) cm tall, strongly ribbed, not winged. Leaves lanceolate to narrow elliptic, shallowly pinnatifid, green above, whitish beneath, (6)-10-25-(30) X (2)-3-7-(10) cm, with sparse soft multicellular hairs above and dense cobwebby tomentum beneath; lobes deltoid; prickles pale, 5-10 mm long. Capitula ovoid, waisted at flowering, erect, 2.5-3.5 X 2.5-3 cm, subsessile, in clusters or 3-4 or rarely solitary. Outer involucral bracts deltoid to lanceolate, with cobwebby hairs; apex acuminate, with strong spine 3-4-(6) mm long, suberect or erecto-patent. Inner involucral bracts linear, with short fine bristly hairs at least on margins; apex acute, not spinous, erect. Corolla purplish red, 18-25 mm long; lobes c. 3 mm long. Style not or barely exerted beyond corolla lobes. Achnes pale, narrowly obovoid, 3-4 X c. 1.5 mm; pappus 15-25 mm long; cilia on pappus bristles 3-5 mm long. (Webb et al 1988)

## SIMILAR TAXA

Stems not winged; lamina with sparse soft multicellular hairs above; corolla 18-25mm long; stigma not, or barely exerted beyond corolla lobes.

## FLOWERING

December, January (February)

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

## FRUITING

(December) - January - February

## YEAR NATURALISED

1899

## ORIGIN

W. N. America

## ETYMOLOGY

**cirsium**: A kind of thistle



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**Reason For Introduction**

Accidental

**Life Cycle Comments**

Perennial herb

**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cirsium-brevistylum/>