

Eupatorium cannabinum

COMMON NAME

hemp agrimony

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Eupatorium cannabinum L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Tall upright herb with downy hairy branches up to 2 m tall, leaves in pairs, stalked and divided into 3 segments, each with toothed edges, flowerheads a flat mass of small pink flowers on top of each stem.

DISTRIBUTION

Locally well established in South Taranaki and Wanganui District.

HABITAT

Wetlands and riparian margins of water bodies, particularly areas that are rich in Nitrogen.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb with a woody rootstock, shoots erect 0.3-2 m, simple or short branched, downy striate. Basal leaves oblanceolate, petiolate; cauline leaves sessile, 3 (-5)-pinnate with elliptic-acuminate toothed pinnae 5-10 cm, short glandular-hairy. Inflorescence a dense terminal corymb, each head with 5-6 reddish-mauve to white florets, 1-2 mm diameter and c. 10 oblong purple-tipped involucral bracts c. 6 mm. Achenes blackish, 5-angled, gland dotted, pappus whitish.

SIMILAR TAXA

Not similar to other wetland plants with possible exception of *Bidens* spp. that lack hairs and have coarser toothed leaflets.

FLOWERING

January - March

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple, White

FRUITING

Autumn

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Produces thousands of tiny wind dispersed seeds. Also has the potential to spread by water and contaminated machinery, deliberate planting.



Eupatorium cannabinum. Photographer: Graeme La Cock, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Kakamea, Patea. Feb 1999. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

YEAR NATURALISED

1975

ORIGIN

Eurasia, North West Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental plant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

ETYMOLOGY

eupatorium: Commemorating Mithridates Eupator, king of Pontus and Armenia Minor in northern Anatolia (now Turkey) from about 120–63 BC, who is said to have discovered one of the species as an antidote for poison.

cannabinum: Like Cannabis, hemp

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Clapham, A.R.; Tutin, T.G.; Warburg, E.F. (1962). *Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge University Press, Second Edition. 1269pp.

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. (1988). *Flora of New Zealand Volume 4: Naturalised pteridophytes, gymnosperms, dicotyledons*. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/eupatorium-cannabinum/>