

# Parietaria judaica

## COMMON NAME

Pellitory of the wall, Asthma weed

## FAMILY

Urticaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Parietaria judaica* L.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

PARJUD

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Grows in cracks in rocks and pathways and on walls (hence its name).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb with spreading to erect stems up to 80 (occasionally up to 100) cm long. Stems are reddish to green. Leaves 1.5 – 9 cm long, lanceolate, ovate or rhombic, hairy on both surfaces, strongly veined; leaf stalk 1–1.5 cm long. Single seeded dry fruit (achene) maturing dark brown to black, hard, 1–1.2 mm long and 0.6–0.9 mm wide. It is distinguished by irregularly curled hairs on leaves and stems; axillary flower clusters along much of the stem; stigma on a long style.

## SIMILAR TAXA

It is commonly confused with *Parietaria debilis* (native to NZ) and *Parietaria officinalis* (naturalised in NZ) both of which are annuals having mostly ovate leaves and almost stalkless (sessile) stigmas.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## YEAR NATURALISED

1946

## ORIGIN

S. and W. Europe, N. Africa to C. Asia

## Dispersal

Spreads mainly by movement of seed, particularly when attached to animals, machinery and people. Some localised spread occurs by root pieces.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/parietaria-judaica/>



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Yellow admiral caterpillar. Newtown, Wellington. Apr 2009. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.