

# Scrophularia auriculata

## COMMON NAME

Water figwort

## FAMILY

Scrophulariaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Scrophularia auriculata* L.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

SCRAUR

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Upright large leaved herb, up to 80 cm tall, often forming dense stands, stems are square in cross-section, leaves are arranged in pairs, up to 18 cm long and 6 cm across, smaller towards the top of the stem, flowers are small (up to 3.5 mm long) and brown, produced in a large flower head at the top of the stem.

## DISTRIBUTION

Scattered and local in northern North Island and also at one site in Otago.

## HABITAT

Margins of water bodies and also on roadsides and wet pasture in high rainfall areas.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial, lacking nodular roots; stems to c. 80 cm high, narrowly winged just below infl. and above first few cymes. Petioles to 10 cm long on basal lvs, much less on stem lvs. Lamina 6-18 × 2-6 cm, smaller below infl., oblong, ovate-oblong or elliptic-oblong, hairy at first, becoming glabrous above and often glabrate below later, crenate or less commonly crenate-serrate; base subcordate to rounded, sometimes very oblique or with 1-2 small basal leaflets; apex obtuse or rounded. Cymes in panicles in the axils of mostly linear bracts, shortly glandular hairy; rachis angled. Pedicels usually several × > fls, but sometimes shorter. Calyx 2-3.5 mm long; lobes broad-ovate with scarious margin 0.5-1 mm wide and becoming lacerate. Corolla 7-10 mm long, greenish below, reddish brown or purplish brown above, especially the erect, rounded larger lobes of the upper lip. Staminode orbicular or suborbicular, entire. Capsule c. 5 mm long, ovoid or subglobose. Seed ribbed, ± truncate or obtuse.

## SIMILAR TAXA

One other *Scrophularia*, knotted figwort (*S. nodosa*) has been collected from Canterbury and Southland, but is not a wetland plant, distinguished by the deeply toothed rather than crenate leaves and lacking the winged stems beneath the inflorescence.

## FLOWERING

August to April



Whanganui River. Feb 2008. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Whanganui River. Feb 2008. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Red/Pink

## FRUITING

Spring to autumn

## LIFE CYCLE

Seed dispersed by water and contaminated machinery.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1940

## ORIGIN

Western Europe and North Africa

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental plant

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

## ETYMOLOGY

**auriculata**: Small-eared

## ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description 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: Naturalised pteridophytes, gymnosperms, dicotyledons. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/scrophularia-auriculata/>