



Alternanthera denticulata

Common Name(s):

lesser joyweed

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. Common in Australia (where the species was described from). There is some uncertainty as to its exact status in New Zealand, and while most of the populations seen appear to be indigenous, it seems likely that at least some locations may represent independent naturalisations from Australia (see Heenan & de Lange, N.Z.J.Bot. 42: 739-745 (2004))

Habitat:

Coastal to lowland fertile wetlands, lake margins, river banks and around waterfalls, and in damp ground within forest, also a weed of drains, pig yards, and damp ground within urban areas

Features*:

Perennial herb. Stems prostrate to erect, somewhat lianoid, rooting at nodes, green flushed pink, glabrous to sparsely hairy, nodes tomentose. Leaves (20-)30-80 x 6-12 mm, narrowly elliptic or lanceolate, or linear to linear oblong, light green, yellow green or glaucous flushed pink, with midrib and lateral veins pink, glabrate, apex acute, margins distinctly denticulate. Spikes globular to shortly oblong 5-8 mm diam., clustered with 15-20 flowers. Flowers subtended by 1 bract and 2 bracteoles, these 1.5-2 x 0.6-0.8 mm, lanceolate, cream, glabrous, shortly acuminate to acute. Perianth segments 2.3-2.4 x 0.6-0.8 mm, lanceolate, cream, glabrous, shortly acuminate to acute, anthers 0.15 mm long, yellow, style 0.1-0.2 mm, stigma capitate. Fruit 1.7-1.8 x 1.9-2.1 mm, cream flushed pink, obovoid, indehiscent. Seeds 0.9-1 x 0.8-0.9 mm, cream to yellow, with a light brown centre, compressed.

Flowering:

January - December

Fruiting:

January - December

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Description from Heenan and de Lange (2004).

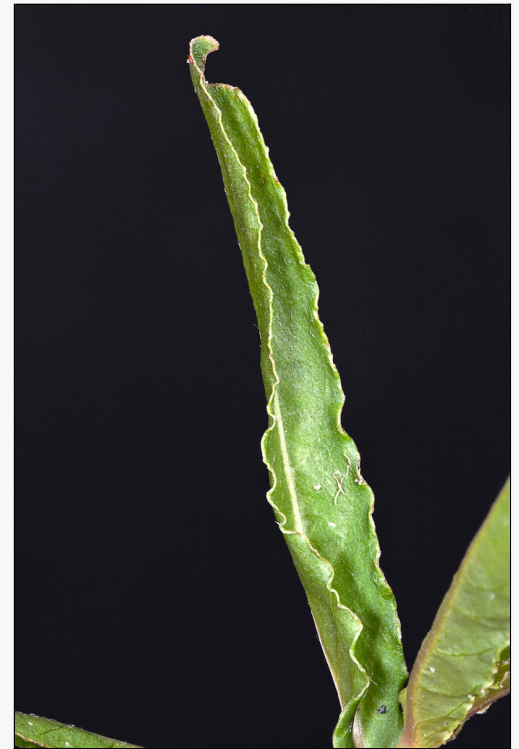
References and further reading:

Heenan, P.B.; de Lange, P.J. 2004: *Alternanthera denticulata* (Amaranthaceae) in New Zealand: a new addition to the indigenous or naturalised flora? *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 739-745.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2049



Caption: Lake Waiporohita, Karikari Peninsula. Feb 2011.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Inflorescences. Lake Waiporohita, Karikari Peninsula. Feb 2011.

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