



## *Centipeda cunninghamii*

### Common Name(s):

sneezeweed

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Indigenous. North and South Islands. Also present in Australia and New Caledonia

### Habitat:

Coastal to montane (up to 600 m a.s.l.). Especially common in muddy/silty ground left by receding waters along lake, pond, stream and river margins. Also in muddy hollows within rough pasture, paddocks, tussock grassland, in damp depressions within dune swales and sometimes in similar sites within urban areas

### Features\*:

Erect or ascending perennial (sometimes when stressed annual) up to 300 mm tall, new growth commonly resprouting from base, glabrous or cottony. Leaves 7.0-30 x 2.5-7.0 mm, yellow-green or green, somewhat glaucous, concolorous (rarely paler below); lamina oblong or narrowly obovate, serrate, glabrous, resin-dotted on both surfaces. Inflorescence a single sessile, cauline, capitulum, not leaf-opposed, often in branch axils. Capitula at anthesis biconvex, hemispherical or subglobular, 4-8 mm diameter; involucre bracts 3-5-seriate, obovate, 1.5-3.0 mm long, entire or with minutely ruminant membranous margins, glabrous to lightly (rarely densely) cottony; receptacle strongly convex; female (outer) florets c.200-350 in 7-12 rows, corollas narrowly cylindrical 0.3-0.7 mm long (including lobes 0.1 mm long); bisexual florets 20-70, corollas funnelform, 0.7-0.8 mm long (including lobes 0.3 x 0.3 mm), pale green, rarely reddish. Fruiting heads usually remaining intact until stems senesce; bracts of fruiting heads widely spreading; fruiting receptacle 1.8-3.5 mm diameter with a pith layer entirely contained within the dome of the receptacle; cypselas 1.2-2.0 mm long, oblong, apex truncate or rounded; body with 4 prominent ribs, occasionally with 1-2 minor ribs, the ribs smooth or scabridulous, united at or above 3/4 of the cypselas length into a thickened, spongy or corky apical portion, the pericarp between the ribs in the lower part thin with the brown testa of the seed apparent; vesicular trichomes scattered over faces of cypselas between the ribs. Hairs on ribs antrorse to antrorse-appressed, 0.1-0.2 mm long, usually tightly inrolled at their apices.

### Flowering:

September - February

### Fruiting:

October - June

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 5 May 2005. Description adapted from Walsh (2001).

### References and further reading:

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* 11: 285-309

Walsh, N.G. 2001: A revision of *Centipeda* (Asteraceae). *Muelleria* 15: 33-64.

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. (eds). *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol. IV. Christchurch, Botany Division, D.S.I.R. 1365 p.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=2085](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2085)



**Caption:** Lake Waikato, near Waverley, Taranaki.

**Photographer:** Colin Ogle



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