

Praxelis clematidea R.M.King & H.Rob.

Family:

Asteraceae

King, R.M. & Robinson, H.E. (1970) *Phytologia* 20(3): 194.

Common name:

Praxelis

Stem

Stems 30-100 cm tall with the leafy twigs clothed in hairs.

Leaves

Leaf blades 20-80 x 12-52 mm, clothed in hairs and gland-dotted especially on the lower surface. Petioles 4-20 mm long. Leaves and twigs emit an unpleasant odour resembling cat's urine when crushed.

Flowers

Each flower head subtended by bracts about 5 mm long. Flowers 25-30 per flower head. Each flower about 2 mm diam. Calyx, i.e. pappus, about 4 mm long. Corolla 4-4.5 mm long, lower half white, upper half purple. Anthers fused together, each anther about 1.5 mm long, filaments about 2 mm long. Ovary about 2 mm long. Style + stigma about 7 mm long.

Fruit

Fruits 2.5-3 mm long and the pappus persistent, 4-4.5 mm long. Embryo about 2 mm long, the cotyledons about 1 mm long and the radicle also about 1 mm long. Seeds black, 2.5-3 mm long with a pale tuft of finely barbed bristles, 3-4 mm long.

Seedlings

Cotyledons ca. 5 x 4 mm, petiole ca. 5 mm long. First leaf hairy, toothed 5-9 x 2-3 mm. Tenth leaf stage, blades 5.4-6 x 2.5 cm, toothed, petioles 12 mm long. Growth bud hairy. Whole seedling hairy. Seed germination time 17 days.

Distribution and Ecology

An introduced species originally from South America, now naturalised in CYP, NEQ, CEQ and southwards as far as south-eastern Queensland. Altitudinal range 0-800 m. Found in rainforest margins, open Eucalypt forest, notophyll vine forest, deciduous vine thicket and in various types of woodland.

Natural History & Notes

A highly invasive weed.

Synonyms

Eupatorium catarium Veldk., *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* 51: 119-124(1999), Type: Syntypes: Balanza 936 (GOET?, P?, n.v.), Lorentz s.n. Cordoba (GOET?. n.v.). **Eupatorium clematideum** Griseb., *Jahresbericht der Pollichia* 22-24: 258(1866), Type: Hieronymus & Lorentz s.n.; Dec 1872-Jan 73; Argentina.

RFK Code

4029



Flowers. © CSIRO



Flowers and fruit. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage, cotyledons present. © CSIRO

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