

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: Verbena rigida

Verbena rigida 简体中文 正體中文

**System:** Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Magnoliopsida	Lamiales	Verbenaceae

Common name urgebao (Spanish), slender vervain (English), jarvao (Spanish), slank jernurt

(Danish), handy garden verbena (English), lila vasfu (Hungarian), verveine

(French), large-veined verbena (English), sporýš tuhý (Czech)

**Synonym** Verbena bonariensis , L. var. rigida (Spreng.) Kuntze

Verbena venosa, Gillies & Hook

Verbena rigida, Spreng. var. lilacina (Harrow) Moldenke

Verbena rigida , var. obovata

Verbena rigida , forma obovata Hayek

Verbena bonariensis, L. forma venosa (Gillies & Hook.) Voss Verbena bonariensis , L. forma venosa (Gillies & Hook.) Chodat

Verbena bonariensis , L. forma robustior Chodot

Verbena doniana, Steud.

Verbena rigida , Spreng. var. reineckii (Brig.) Moldenke Verbena rigida, Spreng. forma paraguayensis Moldenke Verbena rigida , Spreng. var. glandulosa Moldenke Verbena rigida , Spreng. var. alba Moldenke

Verbena rugosa, D.Don Verbena scaberrima, Cham.

Similar species

Verbena rigida is a perennial herb native to South America. It is popular for **Summary** 

garden cultivation due to its conspicuous bright purple flowers that have an extended blooming period. However it has escaped cultivation in a number of countries around the world and has invaded native grasslands, crop fields and

roadside areas.



view this species on IUCN Red List

### **Species Description**

Verbena rigida is a perennial herb that reaches 50-60cm in height. It has erect to spreading stems that ascend from creeping rhizomes. Leaves are simple with pinnate venation, dark green in colour, oblong in shape, stalkless and measure 5-10cm in length. They are coarsely serrated, pointed, rigid and covered in rough hairs. Leaf arrangement is opposite/subopposite. Stems end in cylindrical spikes of small fragrant bright purple flowers. Flowers bloom in October - December. Corolla tubes measure up to 9mm long, fruiting spikes measure 20-50mm long. Fruits are dry, separating at maturity into 4 one-seeded segments. Seeds are known as mericarps and measure 2mm long (Moore, 2006; Gilman, 1999; Botanic Gardens Trust, 2009; Sapia News, 2010; Shoot, Undated). $\r\n\r\n$ 

Please visit PlantSystematics.org and USDA Plants Profile for Verbena rigida for high quality images of Verbena rigida.



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### Uses

*Verbena rigida* has an extended blooming period which shows off its vibrant purple colour (Moore, 2006). It is often used for mass planting, ground cover and for flower arrangements (Gilman, 1999). It is heat and drought tolerant making it useful for xeriscaping (Canberra Institute of Technology, 2004). Like many plants, *V. rigida* can also be used for erosion control on banks and slopes (Moore, 2006). Its fragrant purple flowers are also used for attracting butterflies and bees (Gilman, 1999).

## **Habitat Description**

Verbena rigida is capable of naturalizing in habitats that range from disturbed areas to natural forests. In Australia, V. rigida has invaded woodlands, riverbanks and grasslands (Hunter, 1999). In South Africa it is becoming a common roadside weed and has established in climax grasslands (B. van Wyk, pers. comm. in Sapia News, 2010). V. rigida is a popular ornamental species that can flourish in urban environments and is planted along roadsides and highway medians because of easy maintenance and colour (Diamond Jr., 1985).\r\n\r\n It grows in full sunlight, is very heat tolerant and moderately tolerant to drought, preferring moist but well-drained soils. It can grow in acidic, alkaline and neutral soil pH and on most soil types including sand, loam and clay and chalk (Gilman, 1999; Shoot, Undated).

## Reproduction

The spread of *Verbena rigida* is facilitated by long white rhizomes that help to form dense colonies of the species by spreading out like underground stems in all directions (Russ, 2007). Seeds also play a major role in propagation of *V. rigida* but their dispersal methods are unclear (Davison, 1999).

## **Nutrition**

Verbena rigida needs full exposure to the sun, and can use reflected sunlight to fulfill this requirement. V. rigida is drought tolerant and requires low amounts of water for survival. It was found that the best landscape performance was with regular irrigation every few weeks (Moore, 2006). In order to see a positive growth rate for V. rigida the soil must be well-drained and the surrounding area must be free from competition and overcrowding to ensure air circulation (Russ, 2007).

## **General Impacts**

Gilman (1999) describes *Verbena rigida* as an aggressive, spreading plant. *V. rigida* has invaded woodlands, riverbanks, grasslands (Hunter, 1999) and cotton fields in Australia (Johnson & Hazlewood, 2002). It is a common roadside weed in South Africa.\r\n\r\n

Pammel (1911 in Schmidt, 2010) and Mitchell & Rook (1979 in Avalos & Maibach, 1999) note that *V. rigida* can cause dermatitis on contact with human skin.

## **Principal source:**

**Compiler:** National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) & IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)

**Review:** Expert review underway.

Pubblication date: 2010-05-07

## **ALIEN RANGE**

[3] AUSTRALIA[1] BELGIUM[1] BERMUDA[1] CZECH REPUBLIC[1] DENMARK[2] EL SALVADOR[1] FRANCE[1] HUNGARY

[1] JAPAN
Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) 2025. Species profile *Verbena rigida*. Available from: <a href="https://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=1371">https://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=1371</a> [Accessed 02 November 2025]



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[4] NEW CALEDONIA

[2] PORTUGAL

[1] REUNION

[1] SWAZILAND

[1] TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF

[15] UNITED STATES

[1] NEW ZEALAND

[1] PUERTO RICO

[1] SOUTH AFRICA

[1] SWEDEN

[3] UNITED KINGDOM

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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### **Managment information**

Barker, J. and Randall, R. and Grice, T. May, 2006. Weeds of the future? Threats to Australia s grazing industries by garden plants. Published by Meat & Livestock Australia Limited

**Summary:** A report that identifies introduced garden plants and other species that present a significant risk to Australia s grazing industry. Environmental Weed Rating (EWR): APPENDIX 1:

**Summary:** This report documents and ranks various weeds in Australia based on set criteria.

Available from: http://www.naturebase.net/pdf/plants\_animals/environmental\_weed\_strategy\_appendices.pdf [Accessed 15 February 2008] Varnham, K. 2006. Non-native species in UK Overseas Territories: a review. JNCC Report 372. Peterborough: United Kingdom.

Summary: This database compiles information on alien species from British Overseas Territories.

Available from: http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3660 [Accessed 10 November 2009]

#### **General information**

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**Summary:** A database supported by South Africa that has facts on the distribution, status, and ecology of various plants within the continent of Africa.

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Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants. 2008. Institute for Systmatic Botany. Online database. Verbena rigida.

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Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora. 2008. Virginia Botanical Associates. Verbena rigida.

Summary: Website that displays a digital atlas of the flora of Virginia and their distribution.

Available from: http://www.biol.vt.edu/digital\_atlas/index.php?do=plant&plant=3660 [Accessed 21 February 2008]

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**Summary:** A continuation study of the first Esler source (Esler, 1987) that discusses the role of alien plants as weeds and defines characteristics of each as it pertains to the spefic region of New Zealand.

Esler, A. E. & Sandra J. Astridge., 1987. The naturalisation of plants in urban Auckland, New Zealand 2. Records of introduction and naturalisation\* New Zealand Journal of Botany, 1987, Vol. 25: 523-537

**Summary:** Study done that records the introduction and naturalisation of plants in the urban areas of Auckland, New Zealand. Evans, E. 2005. NC State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Plant Fact Sheets. Online database. *Verbena rigida*.

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ITIS (Integrated Taxonomic Information System), 2008. Online Database Verbena rigida Spreng.

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