Alligator weed
(Alternanthera philoxeroides)

Originated in South America, introduced for ornamental pools and aquariums. In France, it was first observed in the natural environment in the 1960s.

Description

- Perennial, herbaceous plant, amphibious, with stolons and widely spread leaves
- Leaves are dark green, opposing, sessile and lanceolate, both sides are smooth
- Hollow, cylindrical stem, up to 1 metre in length, smooth, but with clumps of white hairs around the base of the leaves
- A main taproot at the base of the plant, but with rootlets starting from nodes
- Axillary inflorescence with a stem, ovoid, 1 to 1.5 cm in diameter, with small white flowers

Ecology and reproduction

- Habitats include running and stagnant waters, banks, riparian vegetation, wet meadows, environments impacted by human activities
- Vegetative multiplication, via stolon fragments and stalks
- No sexual reproduction has been observed where the plant has been introduced

Documentation


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