



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

- CBNMed Porquerolles. 2018. *Alternanthera philoxeroides*. Espèces végétales exotiques envahissantes. http://www.invmed.fr/src/listes/fiche_taxon.php?cd_ref=81831
- GISD. 2019. Global Invasive Species Database. *Alternanthera philoxeroides*. <http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/speciesname/Alternanthera+philoxeroides>
- CABI. 2019. Invasives Species Compendium. *Alternanthera philoxeroides* (Alligator weed). <https://www.cabi.org/ISC/datasheet/4403>

Author: Doriane Blottière, IUCN French committee, for the Resource Centre on invasive alien species. February 2019. Published by the French Biodiversity Agency.

Classification

Order	Caryophyllales
Family	Amaranthaceae
Genus	<i>Alternanthera</i>
Species	<i>A. philoxeroides</i> (Mart. Griseb., 1879)

