



Groundsel bush

(*Baccharis halimifolia*)

Originated in North America. Introduced as an ornamental plant in France in 1653. It was mentioned for the first time in the natural environment of the Bretagne region in 1915.

Description

- Vertical trunk with many branches, up to 16 centimetres in diameter
- Smooth, vertical stalks, many branches
- Alternating leaves, deciduous but lasting until late in the fall:
 - length 2 to 6 cm, width 1 to 4 cm
 - wide, indented leaves near the base of stalks, single, narrow leaves with smooth edges near the flowers
- Flower heads (capitula) comprising 1 to 5 white flowers:
 - wide (3 mm) male flowers
 - narrower female flowers
- Fruit (on female plants) are achenes with a coma (filament-like hairs), 8 to 12 mm long
- Highly developed root system

Ecology and reproduction

- The species can develop on different types of wetlands along coasts:
 - wet meadows, marshes and dunes, reed beds
 - roadsides, canals, idle land, hedges
- It can resist dry conditions, cold weather and salt
- Sexual reproduction by the female plant that can produce up to a million seeds that are easily dispersed over long distances by the wind

Documentation

- Hudin S., Vahrameev P. (coord.) 2010. Guide d'identification des plantes exotiques envahissant les milieux aquatiques et les berges du bassin Loire-Bretagne. Fédération des conservatoires d'espaces naturels, 45 pp.
- Fried G. 2012. Guide des plantes invasives. Belin, Paris, 272 pp.

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Classification

Order	Astérales
Family	Asteraceae
Genus	<i>Baccharis</i>
Species	<i>B. halimifolia</i> (Linnaeus, 1753)

