

# WEED NOTE Mid-West

## False sowthistle (*Reichardia tingitana*)

**FAMILY:** Asteraceae

**STATUS:** Alien, invasive (spreads rapidly)<sup>2</sup>.

**TYPE:** Erect, annual/perennial herb.

**IDENTIFICATION:** *Reichardia tingitana* (false sowthistle) has fleshy, hairless leaves that have prickly margins. The leaves are lance shaped with the narrow end connected to the stem<sup>3</sup>.

**DESCRIPTION:** False sowthistle is an erect annual/perennial herb that grows to 50cm tall<sup>3</sup>. Dandelion like flowers<sup>2</sup> are produced from August to October<sup>1</sup> and are yellow with a purplish base and the outer petals are red-striped<sup>3</sup>.

**DISTRIBUTION:** False sowthistle is a native to the Mediterranean region<sup>3</sup>.

**PREFERRED HABITAT:** False sowthistle can be found growing within coastal dunes, alluvial river flats<sup>1</sup>, townsites and roadsides<sup>2</sup>.

### KNOWN LOCATIONS IN WA:

False sowthistle has been recorded from Shark Bay to to Jurien Bay and is commonly recorded around Geraldton<sup>2</sup>.

Plate 1: Mature plant



Plate 2: Leaves



Plate 3: Seed head



Plate 4: Distinguishing feature



### THREAT/ IMPACT: Environmental and Agricultural

False sowthistle is considered a minor environmental weed in Western Australia. Seeds are light and fluffy so can be spread over a long distance by wind<sup>4</sup>.

#### References

1 Western Australian Herbarium, FloraBase, Department of Environment and Conservation (2012). *Reichardia tingitana*. Accessed from: <<http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/8197>>. [3 October 2012].

2 Hussey B.M.J, Keighery, G.J., Dodd, J., Lloyd, S.G., Cousens, R.D., (2007). *Western Weeds A Guide to the Weeds of Western Australia*, (2nd Edition), Weeds Society of Western Australia, Victoria Park, Western Australia.

3 Department of Primary Industries - Victoria (2012). False Sow-thistle. Accessed from: <[http://vro.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/sip\\_salt\\_false\\_sow\\_thistle](http://vro.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/sip_salt_false_sow_thistle)>. [3 October 2012].

4 Department of Primary Industries - Queensland (2012). *Reichardia tingitana*. Accessed from: <[http://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/03030800-0b07-490a-8d04-0605030c0f01/media/Html/Reichardia\\_tingitana.htm](http://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/03030800-0b07-490a-8d04-0605030c0f01/media/Html/Reichardia_tingitana.htm)>. [3 October 2012].

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