

Pig's ear

Cotyledon orbiculata

Family

Crassulaceae (stonecrop)

Also known as

African pig's ear, round-leafed navel-wort, elk horn

Where is it originally from?

South Africa

What does it look like?

Succulent (<1.3m tall) with powdery-looking, grey-green opposite leaves (<13 x 6 cm) with red margins. In summer clusters of orange, bell-shaped, drooping flowers (2.5cm) form on stalks (60cm) from the centre of leaf rosette.

Why is it weedy?

Fast growing, outcompetes native species.

How does it spread?

Seed spreads by wind and gravity.

What damage does it do?

Competes with and replaces native species. Can be poisonous to stock.

Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Coastal slopes and beaches, often on steep banks, rocky outcrops, cliff faces and bare ledges, sometimes in low scrub and dry depleted grassland. Coastal cliffs, rocky bluffs.

What can I do to get rid of it?

Dig out plants, removing all leaves.



www.weedbusters.org.nz



Photo: Trevor James



Photo: Carolyn Lewis



Photo: Trevor James