

BIO-HAZARD

Campuloclinium macrocephalum

Campuloclinium macrocephalum (Pom-pom weed) is native to South America (Argentina and Brazil) and was introduced into South Africa as an ornamental plant. In South Africa it has the potential to become one of the most aggressive plants and has already been recorded in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo Province. In the vicinity of the KNP it has been recorded in White River, Barberton, Sabie and Tzaneen.

Identification

Description: Erect perennial herb with green to purplish stems up to 1,3m high.

Leaves: Light green in colour and up to 80mm long and 20mm wide. The margins are serrated.

Flowers: Light purple to pink compact flowerheads that are situated terminally. Flowers are produced during summer (December to March).

Fruits: One seeded fruits approximately 5mm long with a tuft of bristles to promote wind dispersal.



Figure 1: *C. macrocephalum*



Figure 2: *C. macrocephalum* flowerheads

Damage

C. macrocephalum has a prolific seed production and has the ability to establish in disturbed or denuded areas. It also has the potential to invade natural grasslands and wetlands thereby displacing indigenous vegetation.

Control

Uprooting and burning of the plants is currently the most feasible method of control as there are no herbicides registered for *C. macrocephalum*. Biological control is currently under investigation.

Contact address

Please report any sightings of *C. macrocephalum* in and adjacent to the Kruger National Park to:

Invasive Alien Species Unit

Private Bag X402

Skukuza

1350

Tel: (013) 735 4114 Fax: (013) 735 4051

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