

*Baccharis halimifolia* L.

Fam: Asteraceae

Tree groundsel

**Synonyms** : *Baccharis halimifolia* L. var. *angustior* DC., *Baccharis halimifolia* L. var. *halimifolia*

**Ecology** : Tree groundsel grows well on poor and dry to moist soils. It is tolerant of saline conditions, and is planted as an ornamental in the coastal area of NW France and Belgium.

**Threat** : Tree groundsel may displace other plant species and alter species communities and habitats in coastal areas due to its ability to develop dense and impenetrable thickets of vegetation. The plant produces a huge quantity of seed that allows the species to spread easily. Tree groundsel is naturalized in southern United Kingdom, NW France and the coastal areas of Belgium.

**Control** : Tree groundsel is tolerant of pruning. Adequate control can be achieved by mowing the plant, followed by treatment with herbicide. This should be repeated 1–3 times.

**Identification / similar species** : Recently, *B. spicata* has been found in Portugal. This species has narrowly-elliptic to linear leaves with remotely dentate margins, whereas tree groundsel has obovate to elliptic leaves with an entire or only dentate margin in the upper half of the leaf. Tree groundsel can hybridise with 2 other *Baccharis* species, viz. *B. neglecta* en *B. angustifolia*, these 2 species originate from North America.

This species is on the list of invasive alien species of Union concern ('the Union list') pursuant to regulation (EU) no.1143/2014.



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