

## *Eupatorium macrocephalum*

### Nomenclature:

Family: Asteraceae

Species: *Eupatorium macrocephalum* Less.

### Synonyms:

*Eupatorium donianum* Hook. & Arn.

*Campuloclinium macrocephalum* (Less.) DC.

Henderson (1995) uses *Campuloclinium macrocephalum* as the preferred name but Klein and Neser (1999) refer to *Eupatorium macrocephalum* as “the recent synonym.”

**Common Names:** pompom weed (South Africa); pompom bossie (South Africa)

**Bayer Code:** EUPMC

**Description:** Rhizomatous perennial with erect stems to 1.3 m high. Stem and leaves covered in rough bristly hairs. Leaves light green, lanceolate-elliptic, up to 8 cm x 2 cm, margins serrated, becoming smaller and more distant upwards. Inflorescence heads 15 mm long, 25 mm wide, surrounded by lanceolate purplish bracts up to 8 mm long. Flowers pink exceeding bracts by 6-8 mm and spreading. Achenes 5 mm long with a pappus of simple bristles almost equal in length.



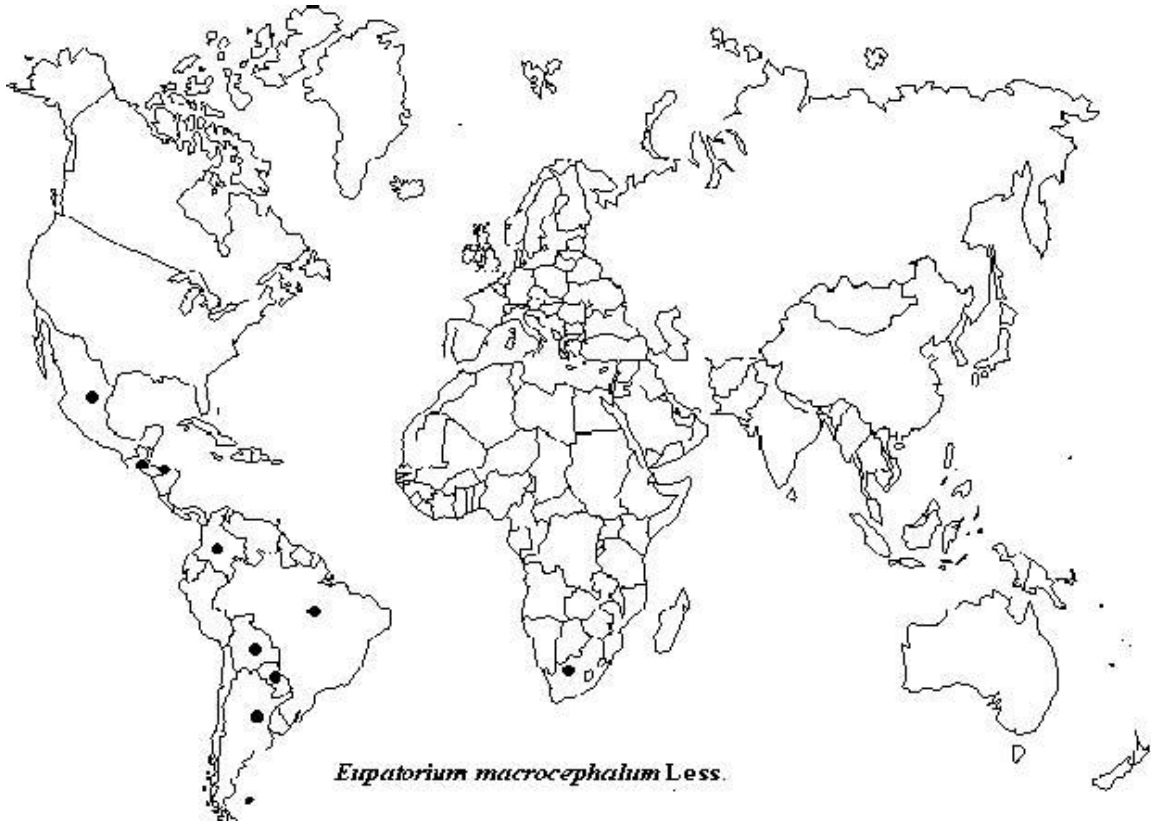
*Eupatorium macrocephalum*  
Henderson, 1995

**Distribution:**

Listed as a “principal” weed in Brazil (Holm *et al.*, 1979)

Mexico, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay (GRIN, 2001)

South Africa (Wells *et al.*, 1986)



*Eupatorium macrocephalum* Less.

G. Fowler, USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
Center for Plant Health Science and Technology

**Biology and Ecology:** Originating in South America, *E. macrocephalum* is recorded by Holm *et al.* (1979) as a principal weed of Brazil. It is included in Henderson (1995) among “Plant Invaders of South Africa” and is noted to be cultivated for ornament but to have invaded grasslands and roadsides. Wells *et al.* (1986) list it as a weed of dry soils in South Africa, mainly in ruderal situations, competitive and replacing other vegetation. It has spread rapidly in South Africa in the past 20 years and is of concern for its ability to invade even undisturbed climax grassland and wetlands (Klein and Naser, 1999). Farmers in the Pretoria area have complained about the degradation of their pastures and the difficulty of eradicating *E. macrocephalum*. Occurrence in Mexico and probable availability as an ornamental give this species a high chance of entry to United States, where it could adversely impact grassland and natural vegetation.

**References:**

- Henderson, L. 1995. Plant Invaders of Southern Africa. Plant Protection Research Institute, Handbook No 5. Agricultural Research Council. Pretoria, South Africa. 176 pp.
- Holm, L. G., J. V. Pancho, J. P. Herberger, and D. L. Plucknett. 1979. A Geographical Atlas of World Weeds. John Wiley and Sons, New York. 391 pp.
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- Missouri Botanic Garden (Mobot). W3TROPICOS database. Last accessed 2000, <http://mobot.mobot.org/W3T/Search/vast.html>.
- USDA. Germplasm Information Network (GRIN). ARS National Genetic Resources Program. Last accessed January 29, 2008, <http://www.ars-grin.gov/npgs/searchgrin.html>.
- Wells, M. J., A. A. Balsinhas, H. Joffe, V. M. Engelbrecht, G. Harding, and C. H. Stirton. 1986. A catalogue of problem plants in southern Africa. *Memoirs of the Botanical Survey of South Africa* 53:1-658.