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Aspects of the biology, taxonomy and control of *Calystegia silvatica*

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Abstract

*Calystegia silvatica* or great bindweed has recently become a problematic weed in riparian zones but the information available about the control of *C. silvatica* with herbicides is limited. The current study was undertaken to gain more information about aspects of the control of *C. silvatica* with herbicides and of the biology and taxonomy of *C. silvatica*.

In Experiment 1 a range of translocated herbicides were applied to established plants in the field. Herbicides were applied in autumn and it was found that none of the herbicides applied, at the rates they were applied at, controlled 100% of the *C. silvatica*. However triclopyr/picloram/aminopyralid and 2,4-D/dicamba showed significant control of *C. silvatica* spring regrowth. Aminopyralid alone and glyphosate also showed some long term control. Both metsulfuron and clopyralid showed poor control.

The same herbicides applied in the field were also applied in autumn to young *C. silvatica* grown in pots in a glasshouse. Fluroxypyr and 2,4-D (ester) were also tested. Herbicides were applied to either the upper portion or the lower portion of the plants to determine whether it matters if only part of the plant is treated when trying to avoid spraying nearby native plants in the field. As with the field trial, no plants were totally controlled. However triclopyr/picloram/aminopyralid, aminopyralid and 2,4-D/dicamba showed good control of *C. silvatica*. Clopyralid and fluroxypyr showed poor control. The effect of fluroxypyr on *C. silvatica* was previously unknown. For most of the herbicides there was no difference in the level of control between those herbicides applied to the upper portion compared with the lower portion. Control options for *C. silvatica* are discussed.

Seeds of *C. silvatica* were found to be quite large, potentially making them vulnerable to predation. There has also been uncertainty over the amount of seeds that *C. silvatica* can produce and it was found that *C. silvatica* has, on average, one viable seed per pod. Few seeds were found in the upper soil layer beneath dense *C. silvatica* stands but all were viable. From the germination studies it was gleaned that *C. silvatica* seeds need scarification and can germinate in temperatures from 5 – 25°C with few seeds emerging at 5°C and rapid germination when the seeds were kept at 20 and 25°C.

The plants used in the trials were identified as *Calystegia silvatica* subspecies *disjuncta* and it was found that *Calystegia silvatica* subspecies *disjuncta* is the most common form growing in the local area. A key for identifying the *Calystegia* species which could
potentially be in New Zealand was developed for this exercise, based on New Zealand and international references, and was also tested during this sampling.

KEYWORDS: Calystegia silvatica; great bindweed; aminopyralid; 2,4-D/dicamba; triclopyr/picloram/aminopyralid; metsulfuron; 2,4-D (ester); clopyralid; fluroxypyr; seeds; taxonomy; New Zealand.
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CHAPTER 1: General introduction .............................................. 1

1.1 Calystegia silvatica and related species ................................ 1
  1.1.1 Introduction .................................................................. 1
  1.1.2 Taxonomy .................................................................... 1
    1.1.2.1 Calystegia silvatica ............................................... 4
    1.1.2.2 Calystegia sepium .................................................. 4
    1.1.2.3 Calystegia tuguriorum ............................................ 4
    1.1.2.4 Calystegia soldanella .............................................. 4
    1.1.2.5 Calystegia marginata .............................................. 5
    1.1.2.6 Hybrids ................................................................ 5
  1.1.3 Biology and ecology of the common species ...................... 5
    1.1.3.1 Lifecycle ................................................................ 6
    1.1.3.2 Flowers ................................................................ 6
    1.1.3.3 Seeds ................................................................ 6
    1.1.3.4 Leaves and stems .................................................. 6
    1.1.3.5 Underground organs ............................................ 6
    1.1.3.6 Location and habitat ............................................ 7
  1.1.4 Riparian zones and the problems Calystegia silvatica causes .............................................. 7

1.2 Non herbicide control of Calystegia silvatica .......................... 7

1.3 Herbicide control ................................................................ 8
  1.3.1 Timing of herbicide control .......................................... 8
  1.3.2 Plant vigour ............................................................... 9
  1.3.3 Herbicide control options ............................................. 9
  1.3.4 2,4-D and other phenoxyx ........................................... 11
    1.3.4.1 2,4-D amine ....................................................... 11
    1.3.4.2 2,4-D ester ......................................................... 11
    1.3.4.3 MCPA ................................................................ 12
    1.3.4.4 MCPB .............................................................. 12
    1.3.4.5 Dichlorprop ...................................................... 13
    1.3.4.6 Mecoprop ........................................................... 13
CHAPTER 2: Field studies of herbicide applications to established

*Calystegia silvatica*

2.1 Introduction .................................................. 27
2.2 Materials and methods ..................................... 28
  2.2.1 Location .................................................. 28
  2.2.2 Plot information ....................................... 28
  2.2.3 Herbicide treatment and application ................. 30
  2.2.4 Assessment methods .................................. 31
  2.2.5 Problems that affected the trial area ............... 33
  2.2.6 Statistical analysis .................................... 33
2.3 Results

2.3.1 Initial treatment effects
2.3.2 Health of non-target plants
2.3.3 *C. silvatica* regrowth in spring
2.3.4 Final coverage of *C. silvatica*

2.4 Discussion

2.4.1 Initial herbicide control
2.4.2 Health of non-target plants
2.4.3 *C. silvatica* spring regrowth
2.4.4 Final plant cover
2.4.5 Summary

CHAPTER 3: Glasshouse studies of herbicide applications to *Calystegia silvatica*

3.1 Introduction
3.2 Materials and methods
3.2.1 Location
3.2.2 Pots and potting mix
3.2.3 Rhizome collection
3.2.4 Plant care
3.2.5 Plant health
3.2.6 Treatments
3.2.7 Herbicide application
3.2.8 Methods of assessment
3.2.9 Glasshouse and shadehouse temperatures
3.2.10 Statistical analysis

3.3 Results

3.3.1 Initial effects, two weeks after treatment
3.3.2 Initial effects, four weeks after treatment
3.3.3 Eight weeks after treatment, 16 June 2012
3.3.4 Regrowth at 24 and 28 weeks after treatment
3.3.5 Shoot harvest at 32 weeks and shoot and root harvest 37 weeks after herbicide application

3.4 Discussion

3.4.1 Initial herbicide effects
3.4.2 *C. silvatica* spring regrowth
3.4.3 The underground organs in spring
3.4.4 Comparison between upper and lower treatments
3.4.5 Summary
CHAPTER 4: Aspects of Calystegia silvatica seed biology

4.1 Introduction ........................................................................................................... 73
4.2 Sampling of Calystegia silvatica seeds from established plants ............................. 74
  4.2.1 Materials and methods .................................................................................... 74
  4.2.2 Results ............................................................................................................. 74
  4.2.3 Discussion ........................................................................................................ 76
4.3 The germination conditions of Calystegia silvatica seed ......................................... 77
  4.3.1 Materials and methods .................................................................................... 77
  4.3.2 Results ............................................................................................................. 79
  4.3.3 Discussion ........................................................................................................ 81
  4.3.4 Summary ......................................................................................................... 83
4.4 The viability of seeds from established Calystegia silvatica treated with herbicides ........................................................................................................... 83
  4.4.1 Materials and methods .................................................................................... 84
  4.4.2 Results ............................................................................................................. 84
  4.4.3 Discussion ........................................................................................................ 86
4.5 Seed presence in the soil near established C. silvatica and the germination ability of those seeds ........................................................................................................... 87
  4.5.1 Materials and methods .................................................................................... 87
  4.5.2 Results ............................................................................................................. 87
  4.5.3 Discussion ........................................................................................................ 88

CHAPTER 5: Identification of Calystegia growing locally .............................................. 89

5.1 Introduction ........................................................................................................... 89
5.2 Materials and methods ......................................................................................... 91
5.3 Results .................................................................................................................. 91
5.4 Discussion ............................................................................................................ 97
5.5 Summary .............................................................................................................. 100

CHAPTER 6: Discussion .............................................................................................. 101

6.1 Introduction ........................................................................................................... 101
6.2 Most effective herbicides ....................................................................................... 101
  6.2.1 Triclopyr/picloram/aminopyralid ..................................................................... 101
  6.2.2 2,4-D/dicamba ............................................................................................... 102
  6.2.3 Aminopyralid ................................................................................................. 103
6.3 Application technique ............................................................................................ 103
6.4 Timing of application ............................................................................................ 104
6.5 Other herbicides ................................................................................................... 104
List of Tables

Table 1.1: Summary of the characteristics of *C. silvatica*, *C. sepium* and *C. arvensis* (Weaver & Riley 1982; Sykes et al. 1988; Parsons & Cuthbertson 2001; Williams 2009; Popay et al. 2010). ........................................ 5

Table 2.1: Summary of the herbicides and the rates used........................................ 30

Table 2.2: Summary of temperatures and rainfall for the trial period April to December 2012. Data is from Grasslands AgResearch weather station, close to the field sites. ........................................................................ 31

Table 2.3: Scores (0 = dead, 10 = healthy) for each herbicide at 2, 5 and 8 weeks After treatment (WAT) with herbicide ..................................................... 34

Table 2.4: Number of shoots from rhizomes or root buds per m$^2$ for each herbicide at 19 and 22 weeks after treatment with herbicide (WAT)........ 36

Table 2.5: The number of shoots over 10cm for each herbicide at 19 and 22 weeks after treatment with herbicide (WAT)........................................ 36

Table 2.6: The coverage of plots by *C. silvatica* stems, expressed as a percentage of the cover present immediately prior to spraying, for each treatment, 25, 29 and 33 weeks after treatment with herbicide......... 38

Table 3.1: Summary of herbicides and rates used.................................................. 50

Table 3.2: Summary of glasshouse temperatures during trial period. .................. 52

Table 3.3: Summary of shadehouse temperatures during trial period. .......... 52

Table 3.4: The upper and lower percentage of leaves and vines affected for each herbicide treatment at two weeks after herbicide application (5 May 2012). Affected leaves were either senescing, dead, necrotic or severely discoloured. The numbers in grey indicate where herbicide was applied. .......................................................................................................... 54

Table 3.5: The upper and lower percentage of leaves and vines affected for each herbicide treatment at four weeks after herbicide application (19 May 2012). Affected leaves were either senescing, dead, necrotic or severely discoloured. The numbers in grey indicate where herbicide was applied. .......................................................................................................... 59

Table 3.6: The upper and lower percentage of leaves and vines affected for each herbicide treatment at eight weeks after herbicide application (16 June 2012). Affected leaves were either senescing, dead, necrotic or severely discoloured. The numbers in grey indicate where herbicide was applied. .......................................................................................................... 61

Table 3.7: Average number of emerged shoots per pot for each herbicide at 24 and 28 weeks after treatment (WAT) with herbicide application......... 62

Table 3.8: Average number of emerged shoots, grams of dry weight per pot and shoot total length for each herbicide at 32 weeks after herbicide application .................................................................................................................. 63
Table 3.9: Average number of emerged shoots, shoot health scores (0 = no shoots, 5 = healthy), grams of dry weight per pot and shoot total length for each herbicide at 37 weeks (8 January 2013) after herbicide application ................................................................. 64

Table 3.10: The quantity (g DW/pot) of healthy rhizome, fibrous roots and necrotic tissue found within pots 37 weeks after herbicide application (9 January 2013) ........................................................................................................ 65

Table 4.1 Percentage of normal and abnormal seedlings and dead, fresh ungerminated or hard, scarified or non-scarified C. silvatica seeds .......... 81

Table 4.2: Percentage of normal and abnormal seedlings and dead, fresh ungerminated or hard, prechilled or non chilled C. silvatica seeds .......... 80

Table 4.3: Percentage of normal and abnormal seedlings, and dead, fresh ungerminated or hard C. silvatica seeds across five different temperatures after 28 days. ........................................................................ 80

Table 4.4: Average number of normal seedlings (out of 25 seeds) which germinated after 7, 14 and 28 days at each temperature .................... 81

Table 4.5: The average number of seeds per pod and the proportion of normal, shrivelled, very shrivelled and underdeveloped C. silvatica seeds across different herbicide treatments. The proportion of seeds with the presence of either insects or fungi is also included. ................................. 85

Table 4.6: Percentage of normal and abnormal seedlings and dead, fresh ungerminated or hard C. silvatica seeds in a germination trial of seeds collected from different herbicide treatments ........................................ 86

Table 6.1: A summary of the approximate costs of the product needed per 100 litre for each herbicide. All prices are inclusive of GST .................... 102
List of Figures


Figure 3.1: Scores (0 = dead, 10 = healthy) for each herbicide treatment at two weeks after herbicide application (5 May 2012). ........................................ 53

Figure 3.2: Scores (0 = dead, 10 = healthy) for each herbicide treatment at four weeks after herbicide application (19 May 2012). ................................. 58

Figure 3.3: Scores (0 = dead, 10 = healthy) for each herbicide treatment at eight weeks after herbicide application (16 June 2012). ............................... 60


Figure 5.2: The total length of the corollas which were either white or white and pink tinged. .................................................................................. 92

Figure 5.3: The total length of the stamens of white or white/pink tinged. .......... 93
List of Photos

Plate 2.1: Coloured bamboo pegs mark out the corners of Plot 24 which was one of the smallest plants in the trial. The \textit{C. silvatica} was growing over a \textit{Melicytus ramiflorus} tree.

Plate 2.2: Established \textit{C. silvatica} growing over \textit{Sambucus nigra}, one of the largest plants in the trial.

Plate 2.3: The distinctive cotyledons of a \textit{C. silvatica} seedling (centre) that established amongst \textit{Tradescantia fluminensis} near one of the trial plots.

Plate 2.4: Landslip covering a 2,4-D/dicamba plot on 17 July.

Plate 2.5: \textit{C. silvatica} before herbicide application of 2,4-D/dicamba.

Plate 2.6: \textit{C. silvatica} almost two weeks after the herbicide application of 2,4-D/dicamba. The leaves of the \textit{C. silvatica} are yellowing and sick.

Plate 2.7: \textit{C. silvatica} 33 weeks after the herbicide application of 2,4-D/dicamba. The large vines covering the tree have not grown back in spring.

Plate 2.8: A \textit{C. silvatica} plant before application of clopyralid.

Plate 2.9: The \textit{C. silvatica} plant 33 weeks after application of clopyralid. The vine has grown back to cover an area more than the original area the plant covered (Plate 2.8).

Plate 3.1: An example of a rhizome segment planted in each pot.

Plate 3.2: Pots set up with tied string and the irrigation system.

Plate 3.3: A caterpillar found on a \textit{C. silvatica} leaf, with webbing, windowing and frass, tentatively identified by Professor Qiao Wang as being a looper caterpillar (Geometridae).

Plate 3.4: One of the untreated controls, taken on 1\textsuperscript{st} May 2012, two weeks after herbicide application to those plants that were treated. This plant was given a score of 8 on the 5\textsuperscript{th} May 2012.

Plate 3.5: The lower triclopyr/picloram/aminopyralid treatment, one of most affected initially, taken on 1\textsuperscript{st} May 2012, two weeks after herbicide application. This plant was given a score of 4 on the 5\textsuperscript{th} May 2012 and 100\% of the leaves in both the upper and lower portions showed some effect.

Plate 3.6: Lower clopyralid treatment, one of the treatments least affected two weeks after herbicide application (1 May 2012).

Plate 3.7: The healthy rhizome and the rotten parts of a plant that received the upper treatment of triclopyr/picloram/aminopyralid. No healthy fibrous material was present.

Plate 3.8: Healthy rhizomes, healthy fibrous roots and the rotten parts of an untreated control.
Plate 4.1: *C. silvatica* seed heads from established plants that were avoided while collecting seeds as they were shown to be empty of seed when dissecting initially.  75
Plate 4.2: *C. silvatica* seed heads from an established plant. The far left seed capsule was open and therefore discarded. The other four seed capsules were full and whole and therefore sampled.  75
Plate 4.3: A range of *C. silvatica* seeds. The seed on the far left is very shrivelled and the seed next to it is shrivelled. The centre seed has fungi present and the two seeds on the right are considered to be healthy, normal seeds.  76
Plate 4.4: Germinated seedlings on moist anchor germination paper used for germination.  79
Plate 5.1: *C. silvatica* subsp. *disjuncta* flowers with white corollas and overlapping bracteoles.  93
Plate 5.2: Hybrid flowers with pink and white striped corollas and overlapping bracteoles.  94
Plate 5.3: *C. sepium* subsp. *roseata* flowers with non-overlapping bracteoles and a leaf with a concave leaf apex.  95
Plate 5.4: *C. silvatica* subsp. *disjuncta* growing over a fence-line near the railway line in Dannevirke.  96
Plate 5.5: *C. silvatica* subsp. *disjuncta* on an embankment in Karituwhenua Stream walkway in Havelock North.  96
Plate 5.6: *C. silvatica* subsp. *disjuncta* growing with pink *Lathyrus odoratus* *(sweet pea)* in a Lake Horowhenua Domain Park in Levin.  97
Plate 5.7: *Calystegia silvatica* (left) and *Calystegia sepium* subspecies *sepium* (right). *C. sepium* has a white corolla with some pink tinges (Source: Osborn 2009).  98