

SIZE: 1-3 m tall.

LEAVES: Greyish green, up to 6 cm long and 4 cm wide, with a short leaf stalk, and alternately arranged on the stem. The leaf shape is narrow at the base and widens towards the tip. The upper half has a few large teeth.

STEM: Woody with many branches. Branches have no hairs but can be sticky to the touch and sometimes flaky.

FLOWERS: In branched clusters. The male (staminate) flowers are yellowish with slender, threadlike petals. The female (pistillate) flowers are whitish and have prominent straight, white bristles (pappus) that extend beyond the petals.

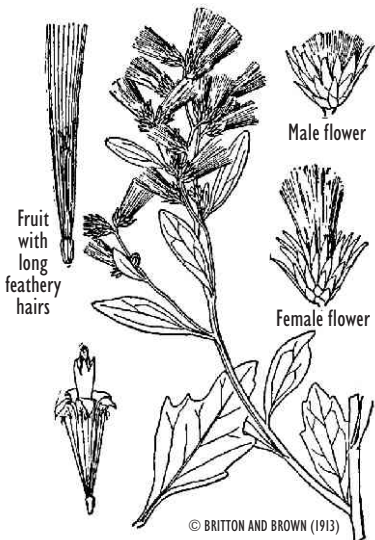
FRUITS: Small, ribbed achenes (seed-like fruit, 1.2 mm long) with one seed inside. The tip has long feathery hairs (pappus), about 10 mm long.

NOTES: This species is dioecious, which means it has only male or only female flowers on an individual plant.



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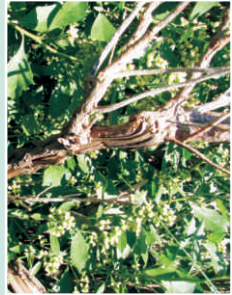


Female (left) and male (right) flowers on two separate shrubs growing close together



Leaf

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Woody branch

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Habitat: Salt marsh edges.

Similar species: None.

Interesting point: The leaves of this plant are sometimes boiled to make a hot drink that is used to treat cold symptoms.