

Alert !

Report sightings of this species:

- online: <https://irecord.org.uk/>
- by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk
- or scan QR code to report a sighting:



Eastern baccharis

Scientific name: *Baccharis halimifolia*

Also known as: Groundsel bush

Native to: North America

Habitat: coastal habitats (including coastal woodlands), pastures and waste-ground.

Dioecious, salt-tolerant, fast-growing shrub, usually 1-2 m tall but can grow up to 7 m. Found in one location in Great Britain (GB), in the south of England. Invasive in Europe and the US where it outcompetes native species and alters ecosystem properties in coastal habitats, is a weed in agricultural pasture, and impacts on animal and human health as leaves are toxic to livestock, and pollen can cause hay-fever in humans.

It is illegal to buy, sell, keep or release Eastern baccharis in GB. For details refer to:

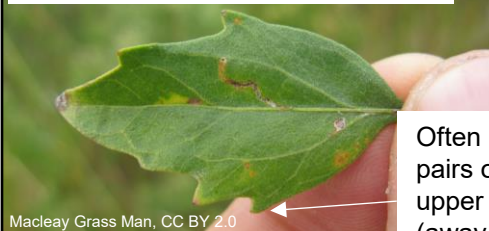
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/invasive-non-native-alien-plant-species-rules-in-england-and-wales>



Katherine Wagner-Reiss, CC BY-SA 4.0

Key ID Features

Leaves light green, ellipse-shaped



Macleay Grass Man, CC BY 2.0

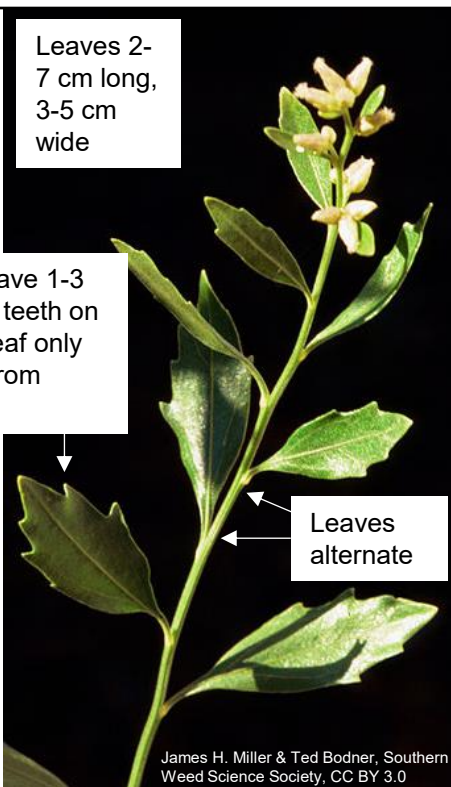
Patrice78500, CC BY-SA 4.0



Up to
7 m
tall,
usually
1-2 m

Leaves 2-
7 cm long,
3-5 cm
wide

Often have 1-3
pairs of teeth on
upper leaf only
(away from
stalk)



Leaves
alternate

James H. Miller & Ted Bodner, Southern
Weed Science Society, CC BY 3.0

Jean-Jacques MILAN, CC BY-SA 3.0



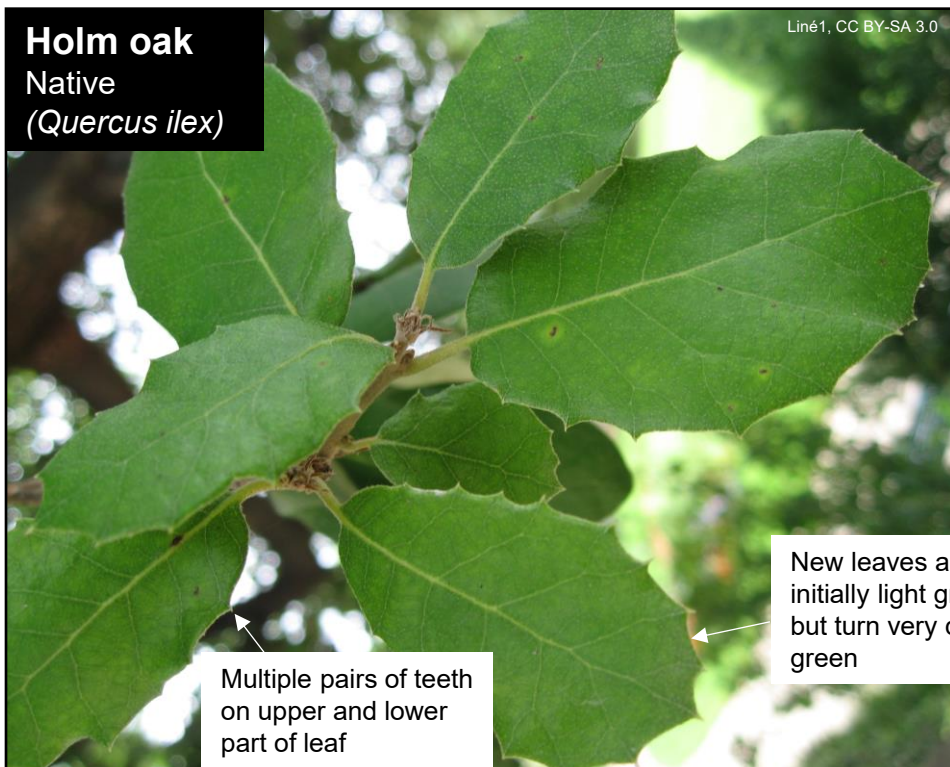
Flowers
are white
and fluffy

Similar Species

Eastern baccharis may be confused with young holm oak (*quercus ilex*), a native species, and non-native mock privet species (*Phillyrea* spp). These species can be distinguished by the features below.

Holm oak

Native
(*Quercus ilex*)



Multiple pairs of teeth on upper and lower part of leaf

New leaves are initially light green, but turn very dark green



Long catkins present in spring



Mock privet

Non-native
(*Phillyrea* spp)



Compact shrubs, growing up to 3 m tall



Leaves are glossy and dark green

Clusters of white flowers on stems in spring

Further information:

- <https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/10.1079/cabicompendium.8164>
- <https://www.nonnativespecies.org/non-native-species/information-portal/view/452>
- https://q-bankplants.eu/page/PlantSpecimens_table