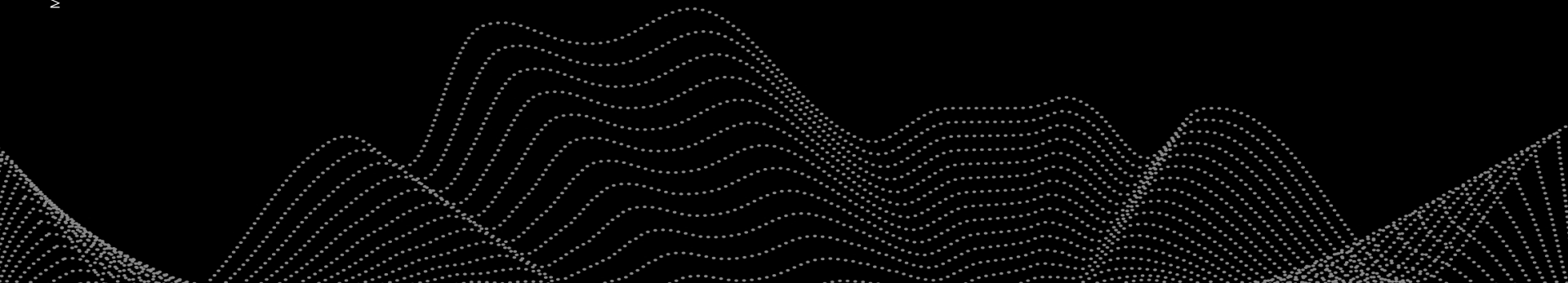




The biological control of horehound in New Zealand

Ronny Groenteman and Hugh Gourlay









Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*) is a small, woody herb belonging to the mint family. It is related to sage, mint, thyme, and a range of other herb species.

Extracts of horehound have commonly been used in cough remedies, and it is thought to have other medicinal benefits.

It was probably introduced to New Zealand for medicinal purposes and was recorded in the wild as early as 1867.

Horehound is associated with dry environments and is abundant in Canterbury and Otago.





Economic conclusions from a farmer survey

- A conservative estimate of the cost of horehound to dryland high- and hill-country farming reached \$6.85 million per annum

- This estimate is considered an underestimate because several identified cost factors were not possible to quantify from the survey.









Plume moth (*Wheeleria spilodactylus*)
larva and adult



(photo: inaturalist.org)



Horehound clearwing moth and larva
(*Chamaesphecia mysiniiformis*)





