

*Artemisia verlotiorum* Lamotte

Fam: Asteraceae

Chinese wormwood, Chinese mugwort

**Synonyms** : *Artemisia vulgaris* L. subsp. *verlotiorum* (Lamotte) Bonnier

**Ecology** : Chinese wormwood is a perennial with creeping rhizomes it found in dry to moderately moist, sunny habitats, preferably rich in organic matter Roadsides, paths, river and canal banks, railway banks, waste ground, clay or gravel pits, etc., always on ground disturbed by human It occurs scattered in the Netherlands, Belgium, NW France and England, probably often over-looked. In Western Europe it spreads exclusively clonally (vegetative reproduction) and over longer distances by inadvertent transport of rhizomes by man. Doubtlessly also transported by flooding in riparian habitats.

**Threat** : The creeping rhizomes can dominate the upper soil layers, allowing this species to out-compete other plants for available soil moisture.

**Control** : Hand-pulling (small plants) taking care not to leave rhizome fragments. Well-established infestations will need to be sprayed.

**Identification / similar species** : Chinese wormwood has long been confused with native *A. vulgaris* in Western Europe *A. verlotiorum* is a long rhizomatous perennial and forms large, patches whereas rhizomes are short in *A. vulgaris*. *A. vulgaris* flowers from July onwards whereas *A. verlotiorum* only starts flowering in October (if at all). *A. verlotiorum* has upper leaf segments that are conspicuously elongate and linear-lanceolate (vs. short, lanceolate to oblong in *A. vulgaris*). Moreover, upper leaf surface of *A. verlotiorum* is slightly gland-dotted (vs. totally absent in *A. vulgaris*). Several related Asian species also arrived in Europe over the past years.

