Great reedmace is an erect, perennial freshwater aquatic herb that grows up to 3m tall, very similar in appearance to the native raupo (*Typha orientalis*). It grows on the margins of water bodies in shallow water on a range of different substrates.

Stems grow upright from thick, creeping rhizomes to form a dense mat. Great reedmace has wide, flat sheathing leaves of a pale greyish-green colour. It flowers in early summer producing dark brown to black erect sausage-shaped flower spikes. The one-seeded fruit is about 1cm long with hairs rising near the base.

Plants are dispersed by wind or water borne seed.

**Great reedmace is not known to be established in New Zealand, although it may occur in cultivation. Any sightings should be reported at once to your Regional Council.**