Abelmoschus moschatus

Common name
almizcle vegetal (English), wakeke (Fijian), algalia (English), wakewake (Fijian), `aute toga (Samoan, American Samoa and Samoa), wakiwaki (Fijian), almizcle vegetal (French), karereon (English, Chuuk), gongul (Palauan), fau tagaloa (Samoan, American Samoa and Samoa), metei (English, Pohnpei), ambretta semi (English), kamwayang ( Yapese), bisameibisch (German), fautia (English), musk (English), musk mallow (English), okra (English), vakeke ( Fijian), okeoke (Fijian), fau ingo (English, Wallis and Futuna), o’e’e (Fijian), auiki (Fijian), fou ingo (Niuean), kamang (Chamorro, Guam), gombo musqué (English)

Synonym
Hibiscus abelmoschus , L.

Similar species
Abelmoschus moschatus is a weedy, herbaceous plant that is native to India, parts of China and tropical Asia, and some Pacific islands. It is cultivated in India for the musk-like oil contained in its seeds, which is valued for perfume manufacture. It is considered a weed in open and disturbed areas. It has been found to be a suitable host plant for the insect Dysdercus cingulatus, which is a serious pest of cotton crops.

Species Description
Abelmoschus moschatus is an herbaceous trailing plant that grows to 2m in diameter with soft, hairy stems. It can grow up to 1.5m tall. Leaves are alternate, rough, hairy and heart-shaped. They have 3 to 5 lobes and can grow to 15cm long. Flowers resemble those of the hibiscus and are usually watermelon pink, although they are sometimes white or cream in colour. They last for only one day and their flowering depends on the timing of the wet season. Seeds are contained within hairy capsules up to 8cm long, which are tough but papery. A delicate musk-like odour is produced by the seed coat. (Mishra et al, 2000; PIER, 2003; Townsend, 2000).

Lifecycle Stages
Annual or biennial (Oudhia, 2001).
Uses
Oil obtained from seeds possesses a musk-like odour that is used in the perfume industry. The roots, seeds and sometimes leaves, are used in traditional Indian medicines for a variety of illnesses, including intestinal complaints, constipation, dyspepsia and gonorrhea (Oudhia, 2001). Valued as an ornamental plant due to its colourful and attractive flowers (Magnolia Gardens Nursery, 2004).

Habitat Description
Abelmoschus moschatus grows in a range of habitats, from marshy areas to forest edges, at elevations of up to 450m. Commonly found in disturbed, open areas, as well as gardens, plantations and ricefields (PIER, 2003). Is able to grow on salt-affected wastelands (Mishra & Naik, 2000).

Reproduction
Propagation can be from seeds, small tubers, or stem cuttings (Townsend, 2000).

General Impacts
Considered a weed in open and disturbed areas (PIER, 2003). Found to be a suitable host species for Dysdercus cingulatus, a serious pest of cotton crops (Kohno & Ngan, 2004).

Pathway
Cultivated for aromatic oil from seeds.

Principal source: PIER, 2003. (Pacific Island Ecosystems At Risk) Abelmoschus moschatus

Compiler: IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)

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ALIEN RANGE
[3] AMERICAN SAMOA
[4] FIJI
[3] FRENCH POLYNESIA
[1] GUAM
[1] MARTINIQUE
[1] NIUE
[2] PALAU
[2] SAMOA
[1] UNITED STATES

[6] COOK ISLANDS
[1] FRENCH GUIANA
[1] GUADELOUPE
[1] JAPAN
[11] MICRONESIA, FEDERATED STATES OF
[2] NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
[1] REUNION
[3] TONGA
[1] WALLIS AND FUTUNA

BIBLIOGRAPHY
15 references found for Abelmoschus moschatus

Management information
European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO). 2006. Guidelines for the management of invasive alien plants or potentially invasive alien plants which are intended for import or have been intentionally imported. EPPO Bulletin 36 (3), 417-418.
PIER (Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk) 2003. Abelmoschus moschatus
Summary: Ecology, synonyms, common names, distributions (Pacific as well as global), management and impact information.

General information
Summary: Tableau synth?tique des plantes exotiques de Mayotte clas?es en fonction de leur niveau d envahissement.
Summary: An online database that provides taxonomic information, common names, synonyms and geographical jurisdiction of a species. In addition links are provided to retrieve biological records and collection information from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Data Portal and bioscience articles from BioOne journals.
Summary: This paper came to the conclusion that A. moschatus is able to act as a host plant for Dysdercus cingulatus, a serious pest of cultivated cotton.
Summary: A webpage for a nursery that sells A. moschatus as an ornamental plant.
Summary: Information on the yields from cultivated A. moschatus in India.
Summary: Describes research on the production of different commercial varieties of A. moschatus.
Summary: Basic information on the cultivation and use of A. moschatus in India.
Summary: A very small amount of information on distribution and common names.
Summary: Some basic information on A. moschatus in Australia.