**Cenchrus echinatus**

**System:** Terrestrial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plantae</td>
<td>Magnoliophyta</td>
<td>Liliopsida</td>
<td>Cyperales</td>
<td>Poaceae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Common name**
spiny sandbur (English), cadillo tigre (Spanish), cabeza de negro (Spanish), mozote (Spanish), mouku talatata (English, Tuvalu), hedgehog grass (English), cauil-cauïtan (Filipino), mosie vihilango (English, Niue), motie vihilago (English, Niue), sandburr (English), cadillo (Spanish), se mbulabula (English), parango (Maori, Cook Islands), southern sandbur grass (English), southern sandbur (English), se mbulambula (Fijian), zacate banderilla (Spanish), quaramiyumut (English, Marshall Islands), te anti (English, Kiribati), te kateketekete (English, Kiribati), pega-pega (Spanish), sand burr (English), piri-piri (English, Tahiti), piripiri (Maori, Cook Islands), capim-carrapicho (Portuguese), sand bur (English), capim-timbete (Portuguese), capim-amoroso (Portuguese), roseta (Spanish), capim-roseta (Portuguese), burr grass (English), vao tui tui (English, Tokelau), puu ta’a ta’a (English, Marquesas), te uteute ae kateketekete (English, Kiribati), guizazo (Spanish), se bulabula (Fijian), vao tuitui (Samoan), vao papalagi (Samoan), golden grass (English), eakung (Nauruan), field sandbur (English), common sandbur (English), legalek (English, Marshall Islands), leilik (English, Marshall Islands), pua pipii (English, Marquesas), Mossman river grass (English), herbe e cateaux (French, Mauritius), hefa (Tongan), burgrass (English), karumwij (English, Marshall Islands), iakung (English, Nauru), konpeito-gusa (English), bur grass (English), abrojo (Spanish), lek e lek (English, Marshall Islands), ’ume’alu (Hawaiian), cenchrus épineux (French), espolón (Spanish), caretón morado (Spanish), kālōkūlōk (English, Marshall Islands), mau’u kuku (English, Hawaii)

**Synonym**
*Cenchrus echinatus* , var. *hillebrandianus* (A.S. Hitchc.) F. Br.

**Similar species**

**Summary**
*Cenchrus echinatus* is an annual grass that is a native of tropical America, but has now widely colonised tropical and temperate zones worldwide. Though it is typically associated with dry, sandy habitats it can also grow in moist areas, where it may be long-lived and reach a much larger size. It is recognisable by the burrs it produces, which readily attach themselves to animals and clothing, making *C. echinatus* easily dispersed. It is fairly easily managed by physical and chemical means, though the soil seed reservoir means followup treatments are necessary.
Species Description
Cenchrus echinatus is an annual, branched and somewhat tufted grass that grows up to 1 m tall. It is erect at the base, with fibrous roots and has the ability to form mats. The blades are either smooth or slightly hairy on the upper surface, smooth on the lower surface and are up to 9 mm wide. The inflorescence are spike-like, up to 10 cm long and has up to 50 or more spiny burrs (5 - 7 mm long), which are well-spaced, sub.sessile with 2 - 4 spikelets. These burrs are easily detached. (PIER 2010).

Notes
Cenchrus echinatus is declared as a species not wanted in southern Africa (GCW 2007).

Habitat Description
Cenchrus echinatus can grow in a variety of conditions, and grows readily in tropical and temperate zones. Though it is often associated with dry, sandy soils, C. echinatus thrives in moist conditions where it is generally longer lived and can grow much larger. It readily colonises open ground and is known to invade agricultural areas, riparian zones, disturbed areas, sand dunes and other coastal areas, pasture, road sides, gardens and swamp margins. (PIER 2010).

General Impacts
Cenchrus echinatus infests dry areas especially along leeward coastlines. Burs are a nuisance for people. They are reported as dangerous for hatchlings of seabirds on the Northwestern Islands. (Motooka et al. 2003). A prolific seeder, it forms mats and can displace native grasses (Flint & Rehkemper 2002).

Management Info
Preventative measures: A Risk Assessment of Cenchrus echinatus for Australia. The result is a score of 11 and a recommendation of: "eject the plant for import (Australia) or species likely to be of high risk (Pacific)." C. echinatus is declared as an unwanted species in southern Africa (GCW 2007).
Physical/Chemical: Physical and chemical management techniques have been found to be effective against Cenchrus echinatus. Physical measures include hand-pulling individual plants, which can either be done on its own or following spray treatment with herbicide. Effective chemicals include glyphosate, chlorazifop, altrazine and benfluralin. Follow up procedures are necessary due to the seed reservoir of C. echinatus. It has been noted that preemergence herbicides could be useful. (Flint & Rehkemper 2002; Motooka et al. 2003; PIER 2010).

Pathway
Principal source: Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (PIER) 2010. Cenchrus echinatus L., Poaceae. 

Compiler: IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) with support from the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP) project XOT603, a joint project with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment

Review:

Publication date: 2010-06-08

ALIEN RANGE
[3] AMERICAN SAMOA
[2] BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY
[2] CHILE
[13] COOK ISLANDS
[4] ECUADOR
[7] FIJI
[33] FRENCH POLYNESIA
[1] GUATEMALA
[2] JAPAN
[17] MARSHALL ISLANDS
[1] MEXICO
[1] NAURU
[1] NEW ZEALAND
[6] NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
[1] PANAMA
[1] PERU
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[1] SEYCHELLES
[1] THAILAND
[8] TONGA
[13] UNITED STATES
[1] VANUATU
[2] WALLIS AND FUTUNA
[3] AUSTRALIA
[1] CAMBODIA
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[1] FRANCE
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[1] HONDURAS
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[7] PALAU
[1] PAPUA NEW GUINEA
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[1] TOKELAU
[1] TUVALU
[6] UNITED STATES MINOR OUTLYING ISLANDS
[1] VIET NAM

Red List assessed species 2: CR = 1; VU = 1;
Anas laysanensis CR   Telespiza cantans VU

BIBLIOGRAPHY
11 references found for Cenchrus echinatus
Management information


Summary: This compilation of information sources can be sorted on keywords for example: Baits & Lures, Non Target Species, Eradication, Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Weeds, Herbicides etc. This compilation is at present in Excel format, this will be web-enabled as a searchable database shortly. This version of the database has been developed by the IUCN SSC ISSG as part of an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme funded project XOT603 in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment. The compilation is a work under progress, the ISSG will manage, maintain and enhance the database with current and newly published information, reports, journal articles etc.


General information


JSTOR Plant Science, 2010. *Cenchrus echinatus* L. [family POACEAE]

Summary: Available from: http://plants.jstor.org/taxon/lflora/Cenchrus.echinatus [Accessed 26 July 2010]

Integrated Taxonomic Information System - (GRIN) [Online Database]. National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland.

