

Rubus moluccanus  [简体中文](#) [正體中文](#)

System: Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Magnoliopsida	Rosales	Rosaceae

Common name

Synonym

Rubus capricorni
Rubus hillii
Rubus moluccanus , var. *dendrocharis*

Similar species

Summary

Rubus moluccanus is a member of the raspberry and blackberry family and has a wide distribution throughout South-East Asia and the Pacific. Its berries, fruit and leaves are able to be used for a variety of culinary purposes and medicinal purposes. It can spread via runners that sprout when they touch the ground and its seeds are dispersed by birds. This scrambling shrub or climber reaches 2 to 3m high and threatens native plants through overcrowding and competition and its prickly stems may pose a hazard to humans and livestock.



[view this species on IUCN Red List](#)

Species Description

Rubus moluccanus is a scrambling shrub or climber reaching 2 to 3m high. The stems and leaves are armed with medium sized spines (PIER, 2002). The leaves are large and lobed, glabrous or sparsely hairy above, densely white or rusty hairy below (Stanley and Ross, 1983 in PIER, 2002). The flowers are white and borne in clusters. The berries are red and about 1cm across (PIER, 2002). There are five taxonomic varieties, two of which are outlined below.

R. Moluccanus var. *moluccanus*: leaves are shallowly lobed, has erect brown-yellow hairs on leaf stalks and branchlets, white petals.

R. moluccanus var. *trilobus*: distinct 3-lobed leaf, appressed greyish hairs on leaf stalks and branchlets, mostly pink petals (Bean, 2001).

Notes

A serious pest on the Mascarene Islands in the Indian Ocean (PIER, 2002). On U.S. Federal noxious weed list, as well as being classed as noxious in Florida and South Carolina (Plants Database, 2002).

Plants in the *Rubus* genus are known to be susceptible to honey fungus (Huxley, 1992 in Plants for a Future, 2002).

Uses

Leaves are abortifacient, astringent and emmenagogue. Fruit can be used as a remedy for bed-wetting in children (Chopra *et al.* 1983 in Plants for a Future, 2002). A purple-blue dye can also be made from the fruit (Grae, 1974 in Plants for a Future, 2002). Aboriginal people in Australia utilise the berries, which can be made into jams, jellies and pies. Tea brewed from the leaves can be used to treat diarrhea (Notman, 2000).

Habitat Description

Favours wet lowland areas (PIER, 2002). Occurs in rainforest edges in Australia (Notman, 2000). Grows to 2100m. elevation in the Himalayas (Chopra et. al. 1986 in Plants for a Future, 2002).

Reproduction

Flowers are insect-pollinated. Fruits are dispersed by birds (PIER, 2002). Roots can grow from the point at which a branch touches the ground (Mallinson, 1998).

Nutrition

Needs a good deal of sunlight for best flowering and fruiting, although can tolerate semi-shade. Has a high water requirement and does not tolerate poorly drained soil (Plants for a Future, 2002).

General Impacts

No specific information is available for this species, but as it is closely related to *R. rosifolius*, its impacts may be similar, namely:

Threatens native plants through overcrowding and competition. The prickly stems may pose a hazard to humans and livestock (Mallinson, 1998).

Management Info

No specific management information was found for *R. moluccanus*, but techniques used for the control of blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), which is a related species, may be applicable. These are outlined below.

Mechanical control: Tractor and rotary slasher, hand cutting.

Chemical: There are a range of herbicides that can be used for the control of blackberry, including those that are glyphosate-based, such as Roundup®. These are usually applied by spraying, using a knapsack or mistblower for smaller infestations, or handgun and hose for larger ones (Mallinson, 1998).

Biological: Maintenance of soil fertility and pasture may reduce infestations. Goats (*Capra hircus*) are able to control infestations through grazing. Care must be taken with this approach however, as goats are a known invasive species as well.

Principal source:

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

Review:

Publication date: 2005-12-30

ALIEN RANGE

[2] INDIA

[1] MAURITIUS

[1] SRI LANKA

[1] MADAGASCAR

[1] REUNION

[2] UNITED STATES

BIBLIOGRAPHY

10 references found for *Rubus moluccanus*

Management information

[Mallinson, R. 1998. Environment \(B.O.P\) Bay of Plenty.](#)

Summary: An excellent source of information on the control of blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Methods outlined may be applicable for control of invasive populations of *Rubus moluccanus*. Outlines, methods and equipment for mechanical control, pasture & stock management, and herbicide use.

[PIER \(Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk\), 2002. *Rubus moluccanus*](#)

Summary: Ecology, synonyms, common names, distributions (Pacific as well as global), management and impact information.

Available from: http://www.hear.org/pier/species/rubus_moluccanus.htm [Accessed 5 February 2003].

Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) 2025. Species profile *Rubus moluccanus*. Available from:

<https://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=476> [Accessed 02 July 2025]

General information

[Bean, T. 2001. Australian Plants Online, Queensland Raspberries. Number 22, ISSN 1326-7469.](#)

Summary: Contains a good summary of general information about the native *Rubus* species in Queensland, Australia. Binggeli, Pierre. Introduced and invasive plants, (in press) In Goodman S.M. and J.P. Benstead (Eds) The natural history of Madagascar. Woody plant Ecology.

Summary: Distribution information.

[CONABIO. 2008. Sistema de información sobre especies invasoras en México. Especies invasoras - Plantas. Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad. Fecha de acceso.](#)

Summary: English:

The species list sheet for the Mexican information system on invasive species currently provides information related to Scientific names, family, group and common names, as well as habitat, status of invasion in Mexico, pathways of introduction and links to other specialised websites. Some of the higher risk species already have a direct link to the alert page. It is important to notice that these lists are constantly being updated, please refer to the main page (<http://www.conabio.gob.mx/invasoras/index.php/Portada>), under the section Novedades for information on updates.

Invasive species - Plants is available from: http://www.conabio.gob.mx/invasoras/index.php/Especies_invasoras_-_Plantas [Accessed 30 July 2008]

Spanish:

La lista de especies del Sistema de información sobre especies invasoras de México cuenta actualmente con información acerca de nombre científico, familia, grupo y nombre común, así como hábitat, estado de la invasión en México, rutas de introducción y ligas a otros sitios especializados. Algunas de las especies de mayor riesgo ya tienen una liga directa a la página de alertas. Es importante resaltar que estas listas se encuentran en constante proceso de actualización, por favor consulte la portada (<http://www.conabio.gob.mx/invasoras/index.php/Portada>), en la sección novedades, para conocer los cambios.

Especies invasoras - Plantas is available from: http://www.conabio.gob.mx/invasoras/index.php/Especies_invasoras_-_Plantas [Accessed 30 July 2008]

[ITIS \(Integrated Taxonomic Information System\), 2005. Online Database *Rubus moluccanus*](#)

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.

Available from:

http://www.cbif.gc.ca/pls/itisca/taxastep?king=every&p_action=containing&taxa=Rubus+moluccanus&p_format=&p_ifx=plgl&p_lang= [Accessed March 2005]

[Notman, A. 2000. Molucca bramble. Rumbalara Environmental Centre.](#)

Summary: An Australian site with information on the use of *R. moluccanus* as bush tucker, or food. Contains a small amount of nutritional information.

[Plants Database, 2002. U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\).](#)

Summary: Comprehensive information concerning taxonomy, distribution, life-history and ecology.

Available from: http://plants.usda.gov/cgi_bin/topics.cgi [Accessed 29 January 2003].

[Plants For A Future, 2002. *Rubus moluccanus*](#)

Summary: A searchable database and resource and information centre for edible and other useful plants.

Available from: http://plants.usda.gov/cgi_bin/topics.cgi [Accessed 5 February 2003].

[Sked, J. 2002. Queensland Region, Inc. Society for growing Australian plants. Queensland Region, Inc. Taxonomic Changes to Queensland Plants. Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants \(ASGAP\).](#)

Summary: Taxonomic information.