**Hiptage benghalensis**

**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>Magnoliopsida</td>
<td>Polygalales</td>
<td>Malpighiaceae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Common name**
- chandравalli (Sanskrit, India), kamuka (Sanskrit, India), haldavel (Malayalam, India), liane de cerf (French), benghalen-Liane (German), hiptage (English), madhumalati (Malayalam, India), adimurtte (Kanarese, India), kampti (Hindi, India), Madhavi (Kanarese, India), ragotpiti (Gujrati, India), atimukta (Hindi, India), madhalata (Hindi, India), madhavi (Gujrati, India), madmalati (Hindi, India), vasantduti (Kanarese, India), adirganti (Kanarese, India)

**Synonym**
- Banisteria benghalensis, L.
- Triopteris jamaicensis, L.
- Hiptage madablota, Gaertn.
- Banisteria benghalensis, L.
- Banisteria tetraperta, Sonnerat
- Banisteria unicapsularis, Lam.
- Gaertnera indica, J.F.Gmel.
- Gaertnera obtusifolia, (DC.) Roxb.
- Gaertnera racemosa, Vahl
- Hiptage benghalensis, (L.) Kurz forma typica Nied.
- Hiptage benghalensis, (L.) Kurz forma macroptera (Merr.) Nied.
- Hiptage benghalensis, (L.) Kurz forma latilolia Nied.
- Hiptage macroptera, Merr.
- Hiptage javanica, Blume
- Hiptage madablotra, Gaertn.
- Hiptage malaiensis, Nied.
- Hiptage obtusifolia, DC.
- Hiptage pinnata, Elmer
- Hiptage teysmannii, Arènes
- Molina racemosa, Cav.
- Succowia fimbriata, Dennst.
- Hieracium floribundum, Wimm. & Grab. (pro sp.) [caespitosum lactucella]
- Hiptage benghalensis, (L.) Kurz forma cochinchinensis Pierre

**Similar species**

**Summary**

Hiptage benghalensis is a native of India, Southeast Asia and the Philippines. The genus name, Hiptage, is derived from the Greek "hiptamai" which means "to fly" and refers to its unique three-winged fruit known as "samarai". Due to the beautiful unique form of its flowers, it is often cultivated as a tropical ornamental in gardens. It has been recorded as being a weed in Australian rainforests and is extremely invasive on Mauritius and Réunion, where it thrives in dry lowland forests, forming impenetrable thickets and smothering native vegetation.
Species Description

_H. benghalensis_ is a high-climbing liana (woody, climbing vine) or large shrub, with white or yellowish hairs; leaves lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, to 20cm (8 in.) long; flowers pink to white, with yellow marks, in 10-30-flowered racemes (Bailey and Bailey 1976, in PIER, 2002). It has scandent branches up to 5m high. Leaves simple, opposite, blade usually elliptic and 6-18cm long (2.5-7 in) with an attenuate tip. The plant flowers intermittently during the year, and produces fragrant flowers borne in compact axillary racemes. The corolla consists of five free, elliptic to round, reflexed petals 1-1.7cm long (3/8-3/4 in), white with one petal yellow in the center, margins fringed. Fruit a samara with three spreading, papery oblanceolate to elliptic wing 2-5cm long (3/4-2 in) (Whistler 2000, in Starr et al. 2003).

Uses

_H. benghalensis_ is widely cultivated in the tropics for its attractive and fragrant flowers; it can be trimmed to form a small tree or shrub or can be trained as a vine (Whistler 2000, in Starr and Loope 2003). It is also occasionally cultivated for medicinal purposes (Starr and Loope 2003). Hiptage holds a reputed position in Indian medicine. The leaves and bark are hot, acrid, bitter, insecticidal, vulnerary and useful in treatment of biliousness, cough, burning sensation, thirst and inflammation; it has the ability to treat skin diseases and leprosy (Agharkar, 1991).

Habitat Description

Habitat variable (Bailey and Bailey, 1976, cited in PIER, 2002). Prefers climates ranging from warm temperate to tropical. Dry and moist areas from sea level to 1000m (3500 ft.) elevation in Hawai'i (PIER, 2002).

Reproduction

Propagation occurs via seeds or cuttings. The seeds are readily dispersed by wind. (PIER, 2002)

General Impacts

_H. benghalensis_ is reported as invasive in Florida, Hawaii, La Réunion, Mauritius and Western Australia (Randall 2002, in Starr and Loope 2003). The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC 2001) lists _H. benghalensis_ as a category II plant, which are species that have shown a potential to disrupt native plant communities (Starr and Loope 2003). Randall (2002) lists this species in the global compendium of weeds for Western Australia (Starr and Loope 2003) and in tropical Australian rainforests it is a pest (Grice and Setter 2002). On Réunion island it spreads widely by its wind-dispersed seeds and it reported to climb over and smother native vegetation (PIER 2002, in Starr and Loope 2003). It is also reported as invasive in Mauritius (PIER 2002, in Starr and Loope 2003). _H. benghalensis_ is reported as invasive in Hawaii (PIER 2002, in Starr and Loope 2003). In addition, this species is listed by Staples et al. (2000) in their checklist of invasive or potentially invasive cultivated plants in Hawaii (Starr and Loope 2003).
Management Info
Education and public awareness are appropriate cultural controls to ensure the weed is not planted as an ornamental near environmentally precious areas. In countries with tropical regions and warm climates such as Palau it is recommended that troublesome species (including *H. benghalensis*) should be prevented from reaching the country and establishing in native ecosystems such as tropical rainforests. Weed species should receive high priority for exclusion from entry into the country and promptly evaluated for eradication if found to be present. It is essential that plant growers are aware of the species' potential to become invasive in the wild (Starr Starr and Loope 2003).

Pathway
Ornamental (GRIN-CA, 2002)

Principal source: Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (PIER), 2002.

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

Review: Wendy Stahm Ph.D., IUCN Plants Officer.

Pubblication date: 2006-07-24

ALIEN RANGE

[2] AUSTRALIA
[1] MAURITIUS
[1] REUNION
[4] UNITED STATES

Red List assessed species 1: EN = 1;

*Coffea myrtifolia* EN

BIBLIOGRAPHY

24 references found for *Hiptage benghalensis*

Management information
Summary: List of invasive species in Florida, their category, common names and their general distribution in Florida.
Available from: [www.fleppc.org/01list.htm](http://www.fleppc.org/01list.htm) [Accessed 5 February 2003]

Information Ventures, Inc. *Triclopyr - Pesticide Fact Sheet.*
Summary: Triclopyr herbicide fact sheet prepared for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

PIER (Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk), 2002. *Hiptage benghalensis*
Summary: Ecology, synonyms, common names, distributions (Pacific as well as global), management and impact information.
GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: Hiptage benghalensis


General information
Summary: Medicinal Uses of Hiptage benghalensis


ITIS (Integrated Taxonomic Information System), 2005. Online Database Hiptage benghalensis


Summary: Comprehensive information concerning taxonomy, distribution, life-history and ecology. Available from: http://plants.usda.gov/cgi_bin/topics.cgi [Accessed 29 January 2003]


Summary: Email. (personal communication, 2003)

**Summary:** Cet article propose un bilan des méthodes et des résultats relatifs aux études traitant de la connaissance des conséquences écologiques des invasions de plantes exotiques.

Tassin, J., Rivièrè, J.N., Cazanove, M., Bruzzeses, E. 2006. Ranking of invasive woody plant species for management on Réunion Island. Weed research 46, 388-403

**Summary:** L'inventaire de 318 espèces de plantes ligneuses introduites à la Réunion, permet d'en identifier 132 comme naturelles dans les côtes naturelles. 26 de ces espèces choisies parmi les plus envahissantes ont été classées en fonction de leur impact biologique sur les côtes naturelles.

USDA, ARS. 2002. *Hiptage benghalensis* National Genetic Resources Program. Germplasm Resources Information Network - (GRIN) (Online Database), National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland

**Summary:** The Germplasm Resources Information Network - Canadian Version (GRIN-CA) web server provides germplasm information about plants within the Plant Gene Resources of Canada (PGRC) division of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). GRIN-CA was created from the United States Department of Agriculture’s National Plant Germplasm System (GRIN).


**Summary:** Distribution in India.


**Summary:** A comprehensive searchable database of vascular plants in the state of Florida, USA.