GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: ***Abelmoschus moschatus***

Abelmoschus moschatus 正體中文 **System:** Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Magnoliopsida	Fabales	Malvaceae

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), aukiki (Fijian), fou ingo (Niuean), kamang (Chamorro, Guam), gombo musqué (English)

Synonym *Hibiscus abelmoschus* , L.

Similar species

Summary 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.

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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)

Review:

Pubblication date: 2006-03-23

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

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