

Abrus precatorius

System: Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Magnoliopsida	Fabales	Fabaceae

Common name

coral bead plant (English), moho (Tongan), pois rouge (English), assacumirim (Portuguese, Brazil), olho-de-pombo (Portuguese, Brazil), Indian-licorice (English), crab's eye (English), jequerity (English), licorice-vine (English), pitipiti'o (Cook Islands), jequirity-bean (English), jequiriti (Portuguese, Brazil), love-bean (English), lucky-bean (English), minnie-minnies (English), koviriviri mata-tako (Cook Islands), precatory bean (English), precatory (English), prayer-beads (English), rosary pea (English), red-beadvine (English), matamoho (Tongan), rosarypea (English), matamoe (Tongan), weather vine (English), tento (Portuguese, Brazil), weather plant (English), tento muido (English), uiui (Cook Islands), pipi tio (Tahitian), ojos de cangrejo (Spanish), pitipitio (Tahitian), pupukiawe (Hawaiian), pukiawe lei (Hawaiian), fuefue laulili'i (Samoan), peronías (Spanish), pukiawe (Hawaiian), pomea mataila (Niuean), matamoso (Samoan), ndiri ndamu (Fijian), pukiawe lenalena (Hawaiian), lere ndamu (Fijian), lele (Fijian), nggiri ndamu (Fijian), kolales halomtano (Chamorro), kaikes en iak (Pohnpeian), kirikiri rangi (Cook Islands), mata'ila (Niuean), alcaçuz-da-américa (Portuguese, Brazil), guen léglise (French), olho-de-cabra-miúdo (Portuguese, Brazil)

Synonym

Abrus abrus , (L.) W. Wight
Glycine abrus , Linnaeus

Similar species

Summary

Abrus precatorius a legume, is a nitrogen fixer and where present in large stands can alter soil nutrient status. It is also suspected to have allelopathic effects that could alter native species recruitment.



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

Uses

Abrus precatorius seeds are used as beads; *A. precatorius* is used in folk medicine (USDA-ARS, 2010).

General Impacts

In Florida *Abrus precatorius* a nitrogen fixer, is reported to alter soil nutrient status where present in large stands. It is also suspected to have allelopathic effects that could alter native species recruitment (Gordon, 1998).

A study Lindon & Menges (2008) conducted in south-Central Florida on the impacts of smoke on the germination of seeds found that *A. precatorius* was among three species that showed significant positive germination percentages after exposure to smoke. Lindon & Menges (2008) observe that the high germination success of *A. precatorius* without exposure to smoke and even higher germination success when exposed to smoke is of concern as it could contribute to the spread of these species.

Management Info

Physical: Small plants can be dug and pulled out (Motooka *et al.*, 2003).

Chemical: *Abrus precatorius* is probably sensitive to foliar sprays of triclopyr; good control has been observed with triclopyr ester at 10% in oil applied to basal bark or cut surface and with triclopyr amine at 50% in water applied to cut surface (Motooka *et al.*, 2003).

A user guide developed by Kline and Duquesnel (1996) based on the experiences of practitioners involved in the control of exotic species recommends the following treatment for the control of

- Method: Basal; Herbicide: Garlon 4; Concentration: 10%; Effectiveness: Good;
- Method: Cut; Herbicide: Garlon 4; Concentration: 10%; Effectiveness: Good;
- Method: Cut; Herbicide: Garlon 3A; Concentration: 50%; Effectiveness: Good

Principal source:

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

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| [1] MEXICO | [1] MICRONESIA, FEDERATED STATES OF |
| [1] NEW CALEDONIA | [1] NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS |
| [1] PALAU | [1] PUERTO RICO |
| [5] UNITED STATES | [1] VIRGIN ISLANDS, U.S. |
| [1] WALLIS AND FUTUNA | |

BIBLIOGRAPHY

13 references found for *Abrus precatorius*

Management information

[IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group \(ISSG\), 2010. A Compilation of Information Sources for Conservation Managers.](#)

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.

[Kline, W.N. and J.G. Duquesnel, 1996. Management of Exotic Plants with Herbicides in Florida. Down To Earth, Vol. 51, No. 2, 1996](#)

Summary: Available from: http://myfwc.com/docs/WildlifeHabitats/InvasivePlants_HerbicideGuide.pdf [Accessed 26 July 2010]

[Mito, Toshikazu and Tetsuro Uesugi, 2004. Invasive Alien Species in Japan: The Status Quo and the New Regulation for Prevention of their Adverse Effects. Global Environmental Research 8\(2\)/2004: 171-191](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://www.airies.or.jp/publication/ger/pdf/08-02-08.pdf> [Accessed 28 June 2010]

Motooka, Philip, Luisa Castro, Duane Nelson, Guy Nagai, and Lincoln Ching. 2003. Weeds of Hawaii's Pastures and Natural Areas: An Identification and Management Guide. College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (University of Hawaii--Manoa), Honolulu. 184 pp. color illus. ISBN: 1-929325-14-2.

[Pacific Islands Ecosystems at Risk \(PIER\), 2009. Abrus precatorius L., Fabaceae](#)

Summary: Available from: http://www.hear.org/pier/species/abrus_precatorius.htm [Accessed 26 July 2010]

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General information

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Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) 2025. Species profile *Abrus precatorius*. Available from:

<https://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=1609> [Accessed 31 December 2025]

Gordon, R. Doria, 1998. Effects of Invasive Non-Indigenous Plant Species on Ecosystem Processes: Lessons from Florida. Ecological Applications, 8(4), 1998, pp. 975-989

[Integrated Taxonomic Information System \(ITIS\), 2010. *Abrus precatorius* L.](#)

Summary: Available from: http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=26416 [Accessed 26 July 2010]

Lindon, Heather Lynn and Eric Menges, 2008. Scientific Note: Effects of Smoke on Seed Germination of Twenty Species of Fire-Prone Habitats in Florida. Castanea 73(2): 106-110. JUNE 2008

[Morton, F. Julia, 1976. Pestiferous spread of many ornamental and fruit species in South Florida. Proc. Fla. State Hort. Soc. 89: 1976.](#)

Summary: Available from: [http://www.fshs.org/Proceedings/Password%20Protected/1976%20Vol.%2089/348-353%20\(MORTON\).pdf](http://www.fshs.org/Proceedings/Password%20Protected/1976%20Vol.%2089/348-353%20(MORTON).pdf) [Accessed 26 July 2010]

[USDA, ARS, 2010. Taxon: *Abrus precatorius* L. National Genetic Resources Program. Germplasm Resources Information Network - \(GRIN\) \[Online Database\]. National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland.](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxon.pl?7739> [Accessed 26 July 2010]

[USDA, NRCS, 2010. *Abrus precatorius* L. rosarypea. The PLANTS Database \(<http://plants.usda.gov>, 3 September 2010\). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=ABPR3> [Accessed 26 July 2010]