GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: ***Ischaemum polystachyum***

Ischaemum polystachyum 简体中文 正體中文

System: Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Liliopsida	Cyperales	Poaceae

Common name paddle grass (English), reh padil (English, Pohnpei), mah (English, Kosrae)

Synonym
Ischaemum digitatum , var. *polystachyum* (J. Presl) Hack
Andropogon mariannae , Steud.
Andropogon paniceus , Steud.
Ischaemum chordatum , (Trin.) Hack. ex Warb.
Ischaemum digitatum , Brongn.
Ischaemum intermedium , Brongn.
Spodiopogon chordatum , Trin.

Similar species *Ischaemum tropicum, Ischaemum timorense*

Summary Considered to be native to many Pacific Islands, Ischaemum polystachyum (paddle grass) is apparently one of few plants to become a native invasive. In Pohnpei (Federated States of Micronesia) it is considered a particularly aggressive plant and is very abundant on other Islands of it's native range. Paddle grass mainly inhabits roadsides, garden clearings and grasslands.

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Species Description
Sprawling grass, with long decumbent culms finally ascending to a little more than a metre in height.; pubescence of nodes, sheaths and blades variable; racemes 4-7 (or more), about 8cm long, spreading; rachis joints and pedicels trigonous, the angle scabrous or short-ciliate, about 4mm long, bowed equally away from each other; fertile lemma of sessile spikelet bearing a twisted geniculate awn, (Henty, 1969, in PIER, 2002). Tends to be gregarious, (Henty, 1969).

Notes
Although this is a native grass, it is very abundant along roadsides and in disturbed areas. It is particularly aggressive on Pohnpei. (PIER, 2002)

Uses
In New Guinea the Asaro people were reported to plant paddle grass to control soil movement on slopes, (Henty, 1969).

Habitat Description
In New Guinea *Ischaemum polystachyum* grows on roadsides. It is also present in garden clearings and grasslands from sea level to 2,000m, (Henty, 1969, in PIER, 2002). In New Guinea, in the Eastern highlands, it forms dense stands in wet gullies, (Henty, 1969).

Reproduction
Reproduction occurs by seed. (PIER, 2002). Culms also root at nodes. Vegetative reproduction is probably also important (Waterhouse, pers. comm, 2003)

General Impacts
Forms dense swards, which tend to exclude other species. (Waterhouse, pers.comm. 16 March 2003)

Management Info
Preventative measures: A Risk assessment of \r\r\n*Ischaemum polystachyum* for the Pacific region was prepared by Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (PIER) \r\r\nusing the Australian risk assessment system (Pheloung, 1995). The result is a score of 20 and a recommendation of: reject the plant for import (Australia) or \r\r\nspecies likely to be a pest (Pacific).

Pathway
Introduced to Pohnpei, Micronesia as cattle fodder. (College of Micronesia, 1999)Introduced sometimes with translocation of produce.Introduced sometimes with translocation of livestock.Introduced sometimes with translocation of machinery.

Principal source: Pacific Island Ecosystem at Risk (PIER)

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

Review: Barbara Waterhouse. Botanist, Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service and Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management. Australia.

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ALIEN RANGE

[1] MICRONESIA, FEDERATED STATES OF

[1] TROPICAL ASIA

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Managment information
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