**Mikania micrantha**

**DAISY FAMILY**
Asteraceae

**COMMON NAMES**
English: American rope, bitter vine, Chinese creeper, climbing hemp vine, mile-a-minute weed  
Cambodia: voer tun trean khaet  
Indonesia: caputuheun, mikania, sembung rambat  
Malaysia: cheroma, ulam tikus  
Vietnam: cây cúc leo

**DESCRIPTION**
A branched, scrambling, slender-stemmed, fast-growing, evergreen vine; stem slightly ribbed lengthwise, hairless or slightly hairy.  
**Leaves:** Green, hairless, simple, heart-shaped or triangular with a pointed tip and a broad base (4–13 cm long and 2–9 cm wide), 3–5 veined from base, margins are coarsely toothed; leaves held in opposite pairs along the stems with leaf stalks 2–8 cm long.  
**Flowers:** Fluffy white to greenish-white, often with purple tinge (3–6 mm long), in dense clusters in the forks of the leaves or at the ends of the branches.  
**Fruits:** Achenes (small, dry, one-seeded fruits that don’t open at maturity), black, linear to elongated with almost parallel sides, five-angled (1.2–2 mm long).

**ORIGIN**
Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Martinique, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, St. Lucia, Suriname and Venezuela.

**REASON FOR INTRODUCTION**
Ornament

**INVADES**
Roadsides, wastelands, disturbed land, crops, plantations, managed pasture, forest edges/gaps, woodland edges/gaps, riversides and wetlands.

**IMPACTS**
Rapidly smothers native plants and crops. It is considered to be one of the worst weeds of plantation crops in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Malaysia. In Southeast Asia, it affects yields of cocoa, coconut, orchards, rubber, oil palm, vegetables and rice (Waterhouse, 1993). The annual cost of controlling *M. micrantha* was estimated at US $9.8 million for rubber, oil palm and cocoa crops in Malaysia (Teoh *et al.*, 1985). In Samoa, it has led to the abandonment of coconut plantations where it is also known to have killed large breadfruit trees. In Papua New Guinea, about 45% of all respondents estimated that *M. micrantha* causes yield losses in excess of 30% (Day *et al.*, 2012). In summer, the dried aerial parts are also a fire hazard allowing fires to penetrate deeper into forests and other natural vegetation.
Mikania micrantha Kunth