**Tithonia diversifolia**

**Daisy Family**
Asteraceae

**Common Names**
- English: Mexican sunflower, shrub sunflower, tree marigold
- Cambodia: chhouk roth japon
- Indonesia: keladi-keladian
- Vietnam: dã quý

**Description**
Annual or evergreen herbaceous shrub, woody at the base (2–3 (–5) m high); stems slightly ridged and hairy when young.

**Leaves:** Greyish-green, finely hairy on underside giving a grey appearance, simple (6–33 cm long and 5–22 cm wide) with 3–5 (–7) pointed lobes, margins with a series of curved projections or teeth; held opposite or alternately on stem.

**Flowers:** Bright yellow, daisy or sunflower-like (up to 10 cm across), held on long and swollen stalks (7–30 cm long) which are velvety below the flowerhead.

**Fruits:** Achenes (small, dry, one-seeded fruits that don’t open at maturity), brown (4–8 mm long), in a spiky mass.

**Origin**
Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.

**Reason for Introduction**
Fodder, medicine, mulch, soil improvement, hedge/barrier and ornament.

**Invades**
Roadsides, disturbed sites, wastelands, urban open space, fallow land, savannah, lowlands and riparian vegetation.

**Impacts**
Forms dense stands displacing native plant species and the animals associated with them. *T. diversifolia* is displacing native species in the wetlands of the Apete River, Eleyele Lake and Oba Dam in Ibadan, Nigeria, including the invasive and aggressive shrub *Chromolaena odorata* (Oluode et al., 2011), and is now considered to be one of the most invasive species in Nigeria (Borokini, 2011). Mexican sunflower has the ability to compete with agricultural crops (Ilori et al., 2007) and is contributing to the extinction of local species, including important medicinal plants (Oludare and Muoghalu, 2014). According to reports, it is leading to the abandonment of farms in the Copperbelt region of Zambia.
Tithonia diversifolia (Hemsl.) Gray