



Thunbergia grandiflora

ACANTHUS FAMILY

Acanthaceae

COMMON NAMES

English: Bengal trumpet vine, blue thunbergia, blue trumpet vine, Indian sky flower

Cambodia: voer thnort

Indonesia: keladi-keladian

Philippines: ag-agob, hagonoy, suga-suga, padawel, saromayag, kama-elaw

Vietnam: dây bông xanh, bông báo

DESCRIPTION

A vigorous evergreen climber with rope-like stems (up to 15 m in height) with tuberous roots; young stems are green, hairy, square in cross-section, becoming brown and more rounded with age.

Leaves: Dark green, somewhat hairy, simple, variable in shape from triangular with broad heart-shaped bases to egg-shaped with broad end at base (8–22 cm long and 3–15 cm wide), margins entire to irregularly toothed or with irregular pointed lobes, held opposite each other on stems.

Flowers: Pale-blue, violet or mauve with pale yellow or whitish throat, trumpet-shaped (3–8 cm long and 6–8 cm across), on elongated clusters; each flower on a stalk (4.5 cm long).

Fruits: Capsule (dry fruit that opens at maturity) with a rounded base (18 mm long and 13 mm wide) and a long tapered beak (2–5 cm long and about 7 mm wide).

ORIGIN

Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar and Nepal.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornament

INVADES

Plantations, forest, forest edges/gaps, woodlands, woodland edges/gaps and riparian vegetation.

IMPACTS

This climber completely smothers other established plant species and prevents the regeneration of native species in invaded areas (Starr *et al.*, 2003b). *T. grandiflora* has a heavy and extensive tuberous root system which can lead to riverbank destabilization and damage fences and building foundations (Motooka *et al.*, 2003). In Queensland, Australia, it is having a negative impact on threatened lowland tropical rainforest that have been fragmented by agricultural and urban development (Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, 2007). It also climbs on to power lines causing power outages.



Thunbergia grandiflora Roxb

