



# Bidens pilosa



## DAISY FAMILY

Asteraceae

## COMMON NAMES

English: black jack, beggar's tick, broom stick, cobbler's pegs,

Spanish needle

Indonesia: ajeran

Lao PDR: pak kwan cham

Myanmar: moat-so-ma-hlan, ta-se-urt

Philippines: borburtak, enwad, kaperek, nguwad, puriket, pisau-pisau, tubak-tubak

Thailand: puen nok sai

Vietnam: xuyên chi

## DESCRIPTION

Annual or evergreen erect herb (up to 1 m tall), hairless stems, four-angled, purplish green in colour, simple or branched.

**Leaves:** Green, compound with 3–5 leaflets each; leaflets variable but usually egg-shaped with a broader and rounded base tapering towards the end to spear-shaped [3–7 (–10) cm long and 1–2 (–5) cm wide], margins with forward-pointing sharp projections or teeth, terminal leaflet always larger than lateral (side) ones.

**Flowers:** White petals, centre yellow (7–8 mm wide), usually borne singly on stalks (1 cm long).

**Fruits:** Achenes (small, dry, one-seeded fruits that don't open at maturity), black, slender (1.5 mm long), ribbed, 2–4 barbed bristles or awns at terminal end.

## ORIGIN

Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela and the Caribbean.

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Accidentally as a contaminant.

## INVADES

Roadsides, railway lines, disturbed land, wastelands, fallow land, crops, plantations, managed pasture, gardens, drainage ditches, forest edges/gaps, woodlands, riversides, lowlands, floodplains and gullies.

## IMPACTS

Under favourable conditions a single plant can produce 3,000–6,000 seeds per year, with 3–4 generations annually. This, together with its allelopathic properties, allows it to form dense stands rapidly, displacing native vegetation. In Southeast Asia, this weed is problematic for those growing cabbage, pineapple, guava and plantation crops (Waterhouse, 1993). Densities of eight blackjack plants per square metre, in soybean fields in Argentina, reduced yields by 43% (Arce *et al.*, 1995). Dry bean harvests in Uganda and Peru were reduced by 48% and 18–48%, respectively, as a result of the presence of *B. pilosa*. *B. pilosa* is also a host and vector to harmful parasites such as root knot nematodes and tomato spotted wilt virus (Mvere, 2004; DPI, 2008).



*Bidens pilosa* L.

