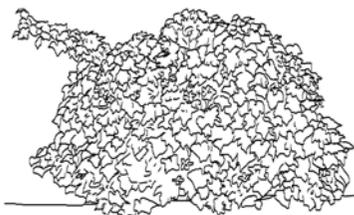




Coccinea grandis



GOURD FAMILY

Cucurbitaceae

COMMON NAMES

English: ivy gourd, kovai fruit, little gourd, scarlet gourd, tindora
Cambodia: slok bahs, voer bahs
Indonesia: timun kecil, timun jepang

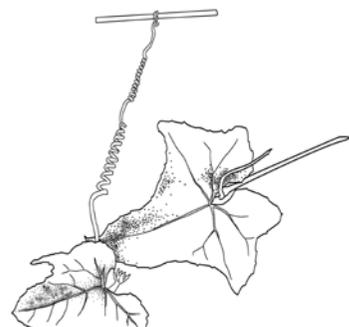
DESCRIPTION

Evergreen, herbaceous vine (9–28 m long) with hairless stems, extensive tuberous root system and axillary tendrils.

Leaves: Green, hairless above and hairy below, simple, egg-shaped with broad and rounded base tapering towards the end or heart-shaped (5–9 cm long and 4–9 cm wide), sometimes with 3–7 shallow to deep lobes, margins finely to minutely toothed, held alternately on stem, leaf stalks 1–3 cm long.

Flowers: White, large, star-shaped with five petals.

Fruits: Berries (fleshy fruits that don't open at maturity), green turning bright red as they mature, smooth, egg-or oval-shaped (25–60 mm long and 14–35 mm wide); stalks are 10–40 mm long.



ORIGIN

Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

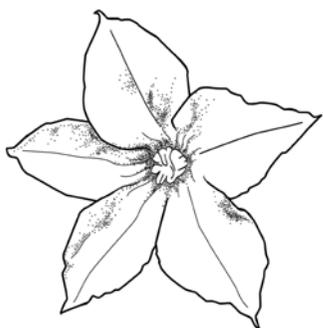
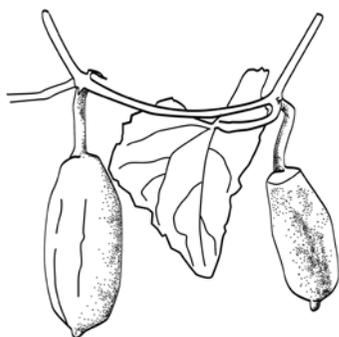
Food and ornament

INVADES

Roadsides, disturbed land, gardens, cropland, plantations, forests, forest edges/gaps and riparian vegetation.

IMPACTS

Very aggressive and can smother and kill other vegetation, including large trees. In Hawaii, it smothers trees and understorey vegetation (Muniappan *et al.*, 2009). It has the potential to invade dry forest areas on Maui and out-compete rare native plants (Starr *et al.*, 2003a). According to Medeiros *et al.* (1993) *C. grandis* 'would not only trigger the decline of much of the remaining biota but also transform the visual landscape to even the most casual of observers'. *C. grandis* is 'an aggressive alien vine that tends to out-compete all other plants' (Starr and Martz, 2000). It can also cover fences, power lines and other infrastructure causing economic damage. In the last two decades, *C. grandis* has emerged as an invasive weed in the islands of Guam and Saipan, where it is a problem plant both in managed gardens and natural areas (PIER, 2005). It is also a host for a number of crop pests in the family Cucurbitaceae including *Diaphania indica* (Saunders) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), *Aulacophora* spp. (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae), *Bactrocera cucurbitae* (Coquillett) (Diptera: Tephritidae), *Aphis gossypii* Glover (Hemiptera: Aphididae), *Liriomyza* spp. (Diptera: Agromyzidae), *Leptoglossus australis* (Fabricius) (Hemiptera: Coreidae) and *Bemisia* spp. (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae).



Coccinea grandis (L.) Voigt



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