



## *Cestrum aurantiacum*

### TOMATO FAMILY

Solanaceae

### COMMON NAMES

English: orange cestrum, orange jessamine, yellow cestrum.

### DESCRIPTION

Evergreen, much-branched, half-climbing shrub [1–2 (–6m) high], sparsely hairy stems and leaves; stems and leaves bruise easily, emitting an unpleasant smell.

**Leaves:** Light green, hairless, oval to egg-shaped (7–13 cm long and 2.5–7 cm wide), leaf stalk 1–4 cm long.

**Flowers:** Orange-yellow, tubular (17–21 mm long), 10–15 in axillary and terminal clusters.

**Fruits:** Berries (fleshy fruits that don't open at maturity), white, spongy, round, small (10 mm across).

### ORIGIN

Guatemala and probably elsewhere in Central America.

### REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Hedge/barrier and ornament.

### INVADES

Roadsides, disturbed land, plantations, drainage ditches, forest edges/gaps, woodlands, savannah, riversides and gullies.

### IMPACTS

Readily 'climbs' into trees and over shrubs, smothering native vegetation and impoverishing biodiversity. In Kenya, *C. aurantiacum* has invaded over 4,000 hectares of the Cherangany Forest displacing valuable forage species. It is toxic to people and to livestock and has caused numerous cattle deaths. Cattle that have consumed the plant become tetchy, before becoming paralysed and dying. The unripe berries are also fatal if consumed by sheep, and its leaves lead to non-fatal poisoning (Bizimana, 1994). According to the community in Cherangany Forest, the species has also had a negative impact on bee populations.



*Cestrum aurantiacum* Lindl.

