



Mimosa diplotricha

PEA FAMILY

Fabaceae; subfamily: Mimosaceae

COMMON NAMES

English: creeping sensitive plant, nila grass, tropical blackberry; Cambodia: preah khlab damrei; Indonesia: jukut boring, putri malu, simeduri-dura; Lao PDR: nya nahm; Myanmar: tee-ka-yone-gyi; Philippines: aroma, hibi-hibi, kamit-kabag, makahiyang lalake; Thailand: maiyaraap luei; Vietnam: trình nữ móc

DESCRIPTION

Annual, biennial (living for longer than one year but less than two) or evergreen, scrambling, climbing, strongly branched shrub, forming dense thickets [2–3 (–6) m tall], woody at the base with age; stems green or purplish tinged, 4–5-angled in cross-section, covered with sharp, recurved, yellowish spines (3–6 mm long).

Leaves: Bright-green, twice-divided (10–20 cm long), 4–9 pairs of leaflet branchlets each with 12–30 pairs of small elongated leaflets (6–12 mm long and 1.5 mm wide) with pointed tips, leaves fold together at night or when touched.

Flowers: Pinkish-violet or purplish, round heads (12 mm across), borne singly or in small groups on hairy stalks (3.5–16 mm long).

Fruits: Pods (several-seeded dry fruits that split open at maturity), green turning brown as they mature, flat, softly spiny on edges, elongated (8–35 mm long and 3–10 mm wide); occur in clusters which break into one-seeded joints; seeds are light brown (1.9 mm long and 2.7 mm wide).

ORIGIN

Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico and Venezuela.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

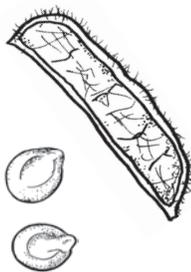
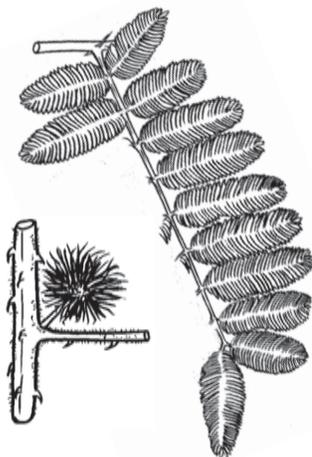
Erosion control, nitrogen fixation, forage for bees, hedge/barrier and ornament.

INVADES

Roadsides, disturbed areas, wastelands, urban open space, crops, plantations, managed pasture, drainage ditches, woodland edges/gaps, forest edges/gaps, woodland edges/gaps, savannah, lowlands, wetlands and gullies.

IMPACTS

Smothers other plants and prevents their natural regeneration. Dense stands also prevent or inhibit the movement of livestock and wildlife. In Nigeria, when *M. diplotricha* density reached 630,000 plants per hectare, cassava root yield, 12 months after planting, was reduced by 80% (Alabi *et al.*, 2001). It readily invades orchards and rice paddies reducing yields and increasing management costs (Waterhouse, 1993). On cattle ranches in Papua New Guinea, up to US\$ 130,000 is spent annually on chemical control (Kuniata, 1994). In Thailand, 22 swamp buffaloes died 18–36 hours after eating *M. diplotricha* (Tungtrakanpoung and Rhienspanish, 1992). Trials in Queensland, Australia, indicated toxicity to sheep, and a report from Flores, Indonesia, suggests that it is toxic to pigs (Parsons and Cuthbertson, 1992).



Mimosa diplotricha Sauvalle

