



## Mimosa pudica

### PEA FAMILY

Fabaceae; subfamily: Mimosaceae

### COMMON NAMES

English: common sensitive plant, shame plant, sleeping grass, touch-me-not; Cambodia: preah klab sampeahs, preah khlab, sampeahs  
Indonesia: putri malu, sikejut; Lao PDR: nya nyoub; Myanmar: tee-ka-yone; Philippines: babain, bain-bain, hibi-hibi, torog-torog; Thailand: yaa pan yot; Vietnam: cây xấu hổ, cỏ trinh nữ

### DESCRIPTION

Evergreen prickly herbaceous plant or small shrub, creeping or sprawling [15–50 (–100) cm high]; stems reddish-brown to purplish, round, sparse prickles (2–2.5 mm long).

**Leaves:** Yellowish-green, sparsely hairy, twice-divided, 1–2 pairs of leaflet branchlets (2.5–8 cm long) each bearing 10–25 pairs of elongated leaflets with almost parallel sides (6–15 mm long and 1–3 mm wide), margins entire, borne on stalks (1.5–6 cm long), leaves fold together at night or when touched.

**Flowers:** Lilac or pink in fluffy round heads or clusters (9–15 mm across) held on bristly stalks (1–4 cm long).

**Fruits:** Pods (several-seeded dry fruits that split open at maturity), green turning brown as they mature, elongated with almost parallel sides, flattened (1–2.5 cm long and 3–6 mm wide), held in clusters covered in bristles, prickles along their margins, break transversely into segments; seeds are light brown, flattened (2.5–3 mm long).

### ORIGIN

Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

### REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

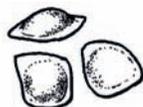
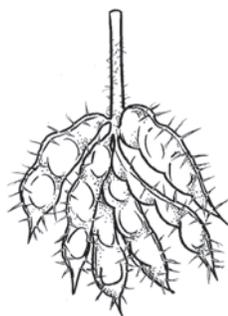
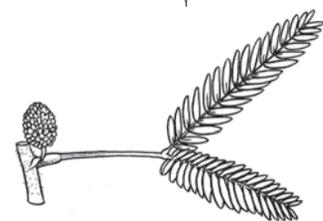
Medicine, tannins, forage for bees, ground cover and ornament.

### INVADES

Roadsides, railway lines, disturbed land, wasteland, urban open space, gardens, fallow land, crops, plantations, managed pasture, drainage ditches, savannah, lowlands, wetlands and gullies.

### IMPACTS

Is a fire hazard and poses a significant threat to native flora. It is a serious pest of crops and pastures throughout the tropics (Holm *et al.*, 1979). Infestations of *M. pudica* can lead to a 10–70% reduction in upland rice yields in Kerala, India (Joseph and Bridgit, 1993). It is also considered a serious weed of sugarcane, sorghum, maize, soybean (Holm *et al.*, 1977), tomatoes, pineapples, cotton (Lee Soo Ann, 1976; Waterhouse and Norris, 1987), rubber, tea, coffee, coconut, oil palm, banana, mango, papaya, citrus and even *Acacia mangium* plantations in Indonesia (Nazif, 1993). Mimosa also invades pasture and can be toxic to livestock. It is suspected of poisoning cattle in Papua New Guinea (Henty and Pritchard, 1975) and has caused stunted growth in chickens in Indonesia (Kostermans *et al.*, 1987).



*Mimosa pudica* L.

