



# *Antigonon leptopus*

## **KNOTWEED FAMILY**

Polygonaceae

## **COMMON NAMES**

English: bride's tears, chain of love, coral bells, coral creeper, love vine

Indonesia: bunga air mata pengantin

Malaysia: bunga berteh, bunga bonet

Philippines: cadena de amor, kantutay

Thailand: phuang-chomphu

Vietnam: hoa ti-gôn

## **DESCRIPTION**

Evergreen climber or vine with tendrils, angular stems [6–10 (–15 m long)]; hairless or with young shoots covered in brownish or reddish hairs; older stems brown and woody near base; underground tubers.

**Leaves:** Light green on upper surface, pale green below, membranous, conspicuous network of veins, heart-shaped or triangular (2.5–15 cm long and 2–10 cm wide), margins entire, wavy or bluntly toothed with pointed tips, leaf stalks 1–5 cm long, slightly winged.

**Flowers:** Bright pink, sometimes white, in clusters (4–20 cm long) at the tips of branches, tips of clusters ending in a short tendril.

**Fruits:** Achenes (small, dry, one-seeded fruits that don't open at maturity), brown, cone-shaped or three-angled (8–12 mm long and 4–7 mm wide), covered in the papery remains of the flower 'petals.'

## **ORIGIN**

Mexico

## **REASON FOR INTRODUCTION**

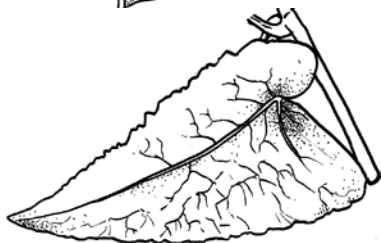
Ornament

## **INVADES**

Roadsides, disturbed areas, wastelands, urban open space, forest edges/gaps, riparian vegetation and coastal sand dunes.

## **IMPACTS**

Smothers native trees, out-competes understorey plants and alters fire regimes (Langeland *et al.*, 2008; USDA-NRCS, 2011). On Christmas Island (Indian Ocean), it is 'rampant on sea and inland cliffs and in previously mined areas where it may be hampering the annual migration of crabs and interfering with natural regeneration' (Swarbrick and Hart, 2000). It has been estimated to cover 20% of the island of Saint Eustatius (Caribbean) (Ernst and Ketner, 2007).



*Antigonon leptopus* Hook. & Arn

