



Ageratina adenophora

DAISY FAMILY

Asteraceae

COMMON NAMES

English: cat weed, crofton weed, hemp agrimony, Mexican devil.

DESCRIPTION

A multi-stemmed evergreen herb or soft shrub [1–2 (–3) m high], young stems green, reddish or purplish covered in sticky hairs becoming woody and brownish-green or brown when mature.

Leaves: Dark green, simple, diamond-shaped or almost triangular (4–15 cm long and 3–9 cm wide) with toothed margins, three-veined from the base, held opposite each other on the stem on long stalks (about 1–6 cm long), non-aromatic.

Flowers: White flowerheads (5–8 mm across) in terminal clusters at the tips of branches.

Fruits: Achenes (small, dry, one-seeded fruits that don't open at maturity), bristly (about 2 mm long and 0.3–0.5 mm wide).

ORIGIN

Mexico

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornament

INVADES

Roadsides, railway lines, disturbed areas, wastelands, urban open space, plantations, forests, forest edges/gaps, riparian vegetation and lowlands.

IMPACTS

Trailing branches easily root at the nodes on contact with the soil, forming dense impenetrable stands resulting in the loss of biodiversity. In Australia, infestations pose a threat to rare and endangered species. It also reduces crop yields, reduces livestock-carrying capacities and restricts movement of livestock and machinery. In Australia, it spreads so fast that dairy farmers and banana growers abandoned their land (Auld, 1969, 1970; Holm *et al.*, 1991; Parsons and Cuthbertson, 1992). It is unpalatable to cattle and toxic to horses, who readily consume it if present.



Ageratina adenophora (Spreng.) R.M. King & H. Rob



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