



Duranta erecta

VERBENA FAMILY

Verbenaceae

COMMON NAMES

English: Brazilian skyflower, forget-me-not tree, golden dew drop, golden tears

Indonesia: sinyo nakal

Vietnam: thanh quan

DESCRIPTION

Usually evergreen, multi-stemmed, shrub or small tree [2–4 (–7) m high]; sometimes scrambling, branches with a drooping habit; sometimes with spines in the leaf stalks; branches four-angled.

Leaves: Dark to light green, sparsely hairy to hairless, simple, oval to egg-shaped (15–90 mm long and 12–60 mm wide), margins usually entire but sometimes toothed towards the leaf tips, held opposite each other on stem or occasionally in whorls of three.

Flowers: Lilac, light blue, pale purple or white, tubular-shaped (9–18 mm long), in elongated clusters or sprays up to 30 cm long at the ends of branches.

Fruits: Berries (fleshy fruits that don't open at maturity), initially green turning orange-yellow as they mature, round or almost round (5–14 mm wide), shiny, with a curved beak at one end, borne in large clusters.

ORIGIN

Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Southern USA, Venezuela and the Caribbean.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

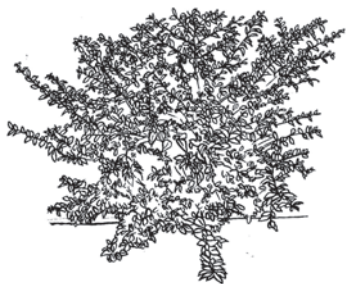
Hedge/barrier and ornament.

INVADES

Roadsides, disturbed areas, plantations, forest edges/gaps, woodland edges/gaps and riparian vegetation.

IMPACTS

D. erecta has the ability to form dense stands displacing native plants, and the organisms associated with them. It is allelopathic and also has the ability to climb into woodland or forest canopies. Its toxicity has been known for over 100 years when the ingestion of fruit was inferred to have killed a two-year-old boy in Queensland, Australia, in the late 19th century (Wheeler, 1895). It has also caused the death of numerous pets (Scanlan *et al.*, 2006) and poisoned cattle (Sutherland, 1953).



Duranta erecta L.

