



Ruellia tuberosa

ACANTHUS FAMILY

Acanthaceae

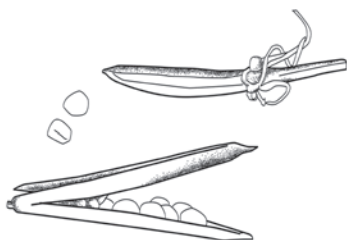
COMMON NAMES

English: bluebell, iron root, large bell-flower, minnieroot, popping pod, ruellia, sheep potato, spearpod

Cambodia: phka arch kok, phka smau, smau leach phtoush

Indonesia: pletekan

Vietnam: cây Quả nỏ



DESCRIPTION

Biennial (lives for 1–2 years) herb, creeping or upright [60 (–70) cm tall], stems four-sided and hairy, swollen and purplish at the nodes with thick, elongated spindle-shaped tuberous roots.

Leaves: Green, glossy, almost hairless, simple, oval to egg-shaped [5–9 (–18) cm long and 2–4 (–9) cm wide], margins entire, leaf stalk is 5–7 mm long.

Flowers: Mauve to blue-violet, solitary, tubular (5–5.5 cm long and 3.5 cm across), showy.

Fruits: Capsule, hairless, elongated with almost parallel sides (2.2–3 cm long), containing 24–28 seeds.

ORIGIN

Colombia, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela and the Caribbean.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Medicine and ornament.

INVADES

Roadsides, railway lines, disturbed land, drainage ditches and lowlands.

IMPACTS

Forms dense stands displacing native plants and the organisms associated with them.



Ruellia tuberosa L.

