



Sphagneticola trilobata

DAISY FAMILY

Asteraceae

COMMON NAMES

English: creeping oxeye, creeping daisy, creeping wedelia, Singapore daisy

Indonesia: seruni, widelia, wedelia

Malaysia: panchut-panchut

Philippines: imelda

Vietnam: sơn cúc ba thùy

DESCRIPTION

Creeping, mat-forming evergreen herb with scrambling or climbing habit [15–30 (–70) cm tall]; stems green or reddish (up to 2 m long), slightly hairy, rounded, rooting at the joints.

Leaves: Dark green, glossy, almost hairless, simple, fleshy (40–180 mm long and 15–80 mm wide), three-lobed, margins toothed, held in opposite pairs on stem, stalkless or on short stalks.

Flowers: Bright yellow to orange, daisy-like (20–35 mm across), borne singly on upright stalks (3–15 cm long).

Fruits: Achene (small, dry, one-seeded fruit that does not open at maturity), brown, elongate (4–5 mm long).

ORIGIN

Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela and the Caribbean.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Medicine, erosion control and ornament.

INVADES

Roadsides, disturbed areas, wasteland, drainage ditches, forest edges/gaps, woodland edges/gaps and lowlands.

IMPACTS

Forms a dense ground cover to the detriment of other plant species. It is also allelopathic enhancing its competitiveness (Zhang *et al.*, 2004). Even low infestation levels have a negative impact on plant diversity. In a study on Hainan Island, China, *S. trilobata* already starts decreasing plant community diversity at 10% cover (Qi *et al.*, 2014). In south-east Viti Levu and Taveuni Island, Fiji, it has invaded taro [*Colocasia esculenta* (L.) Schott; Araceae] fields (Macanawai, 2013).



Sphagneticola trilobata (L.) Pruski

