### Dichrostachys cinerea

**System:** Terrestrial

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Order</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plantae</td>
<td>Magnoliophyta</td>
<td>Magnoliopsida</td>
<td>Fabales</td>
<td>Fabaceae</td>
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#### Kingdom

#### Common name
sickle bush (English, South Africa), Kalahari-Weihnachtsbaum (German), el marabu (English, Cuba)

#### Synonym

#### Similar species

#### Summary
Dichrostachys cinerea is a thorny, fast-growing woody bush or treelet which invades fields, wasteland, road sides and other disturbed areas. Originally from Africa, it has been introduced to the West Indies during the 19th century. Adult plants live a very long time, producing seeds which survive for a long time in the soil almost all year long. D. cinerea causes losses in agricultural production and its management involves frequent, heavy and expensive work.

[view this species on IUCN Red List](http://iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=161)

#### Species Description

Bush or treelet 1.5-6m high. Branches bearing short, thorn-ended twigs. Leaves bipinnate, 3-10cm long, with 5-10 pairs of pinnae, each one with 10-30 pairs of folioles 3-6mm long. Spikes 3-8cm long, upper florets sulphur-yellow or yellow, the basal ones neutral, with long lilac-pink staminodes. Pods crowded, glomerate, ondulate and contorted, dark brown. Seeds obovate, dark brown, 4mm long.

#### Lifecycle Stages
Seeds survive long in the soil. The growth of the plants is very fast. Young plants may produce seeds. Adult plants can survive a very long time, producing seeds almost all year long.

#### Reproduction
Seeds, root cuttings, root suckering.
Each plant produces a large number of seeds per year, almost all year long.

#### General Impacts
Causes losses in agricultural production. Management involves frequent, heavy and expensive work.
Management Info
Preventative measures: A Risk Assessment of Dichrostachys cinerea for Hawai‘i and other Pacific islands was prepared by Dr. Curtis Daehler (UH Botany) with funding from the Kaulunani Urban Forestry Program and US Forest Service. The alien plant screening system is derived from Pheloung et al. (1999) with minor modifications for use in Pacific islands (Daehler et al. 2004). The result is a score of 16 and a recommendation of: “Likely to cause significant ecological or economic harm in Hawai‘i and on other Pacific Islands as determined by a high WRA score, which is based on published sources describing species biology and behaviour in Hawai‘i and/or other parts of the world.”

Physical: Cutting and burning of the plants is not a very efficient control method, since the seeds survive in the soil, and the growth is very fast.

Chemical: Use of dangerous herbicides is often necessary.

Principal source:

Compiler: J. Fournet, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Guadeloupe & IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)


Publication date: 2005-04-13

ALIEN RANGE
[1] REUNION

Red List assessed species 3: EN = 1; VU = 2;

Peltophyrne cataulaciceps EN
Peltophyrne empusa VU
Peltophyrine gundlachi VU

BIBLIOGRAPHY
9 references found for Dichrostachys cinerea

Management information
Summary: A study on the use of a screening system to assess proposed plant introductions to Hawaii or other Pacific Islands and to identify high-risk species used in horticulture and forestry which would greatly reduce future pest-plant problems and allow entry of most nonpests.

PIER (Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk), 2002. Dichrostachys cinerea
Summary: Ecology, synonyms, common names, distributions (Pacific as well as global), management and impact information.

General information
Summary: Tableau synthétique des plantes exotiques de Mayotte classées en fonction de leur niveau d’envahissement.
Centre des ressources biologiques, Plantes tropicales. INRA-CIRAD, 2007.


ITIS (Integrated Taxonomic Information System), 2004. Online Database Dichrostachys cinerea