

*Rubus niveus* [简体中文](#) [正體中文](#)

**System:** Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Magnoliopsida	Rosales	Rosaceae

## Common name

## Synonym

*Rubus albescens*, Roxb.  
*Rubus foliolosus*, D. Don  
*Rubus horsfieldii*, Miq.  
*Rubus lasiocarpus*, Sm.  
*Rubus micranthus*, D. Don  
*Rubus pedunculatus*, D. Don  
*Rubus bonatii*, H. Lév.  
*Rubus boudieri*, H. Lév.  
*Rubus distans*, D. Don  
*Rubus godongensis*, Y. Gu & W.L. Li  
*Rubus incanus*, Sasaki ex Y.C. Liu & Yang  
*Rubus lasiocarpus*, var. *ectenothyrsus* Cardot  
*Rubus lasiocarpus*, var. *micranthus* (D. Don) Hook. f.  
*Rubus longistylus*, H. Lév.  
*Rubus mairei*, H. Lév.  
*Rubus mysorensis*, F. Heyne.  
*Rubus niveus*, var. *micranthus* (D. Don) H. Hara  
*Rubus pinnatus*, D. Don  
*Rubus pyi*, H. Lév.  
*Rubus tongchouanensis*, H. Lév.

## Similar species

## Summary

*Rubus niveus* is a shrub native to Asia that may form dense, impenetrable, thorny thickets that can displace native species. It produces sweet, palatable fruit enjoyed by birds, rodents, reptiles and humans and has been cultivated in many regions throughout the world for this reason. It is also used as a living fence. Mechanical management of the species is difficult due to its growth form and persistent seedbank, but chemical methods have been developed and biological means of management are being explored.



[view this species on IUCN Red List](#)

## Species Description

*Rubus niveus* is a large perennial shrub growing up to 4.5 metres in height that may form dense thickets of intertwining stems. The flexible, arching stems may be downy when young but become glabrous and glaucous at maturity. They are covered with sharp, hooked thorns 3-7mm long. The leaves are pinnately compound into 5-9 serrated, elliptic-ovate leaflets that are 2.5-6cm long and 2-5cm wide. The leaves are dark green and glaucous above and white tomentose below. The petiolules are approximately 0.1cm long and are covered with small prickles, as are the leaf rachises. The inflorescences are short, axillary or terminal panicles of 24 or more flowers, which are pink to rose purple. The 5-petaled flowers are approximately 1.25cm broad with petals of 4-5mm in length. The fruit of *R. niveus* is a subglobose aggregate of drupelets and is 1-2cm in diameter with a purple-black colour and fine bloom at maturity. It is juicy and sweet with small seeds, and may be produced throughout the year (Morton, 1987; PIER, 1999).

## Notes

Two distinct forms are found in Hawai'i, a white stemmed and red stemmed morph which is present in Maui. This morph has light pink petals and dark red to purple stems (Starr *et al.* 2003).

*R. niveus* may be preyed upon by the 2-spotted mite *Tetranychus bimaculatus* and the green stink bug *Nezara viridula*, as well as be infected with Anthracnose, *Elsinoe veneta*, at the end of the fruiting season (Morton, 1987). It is also susceptible to the *Aphis rubicola*-transmitted raspberry leaf curl *luteovirus*, which is identified by leaf curling and stunting and small, crumbly fruits (Brunt *et al.* 1996).

## Lifecycle Stages

In heavily invaded areas, *R. niveus* can form a seed bank of 7000-22800 seeds / m<sup>2</sup>. The seeds need to be buried in the ground for at least nine months before germination. The germination rate is around 81% (Ruiz Cevallos, 1992; Landazuri, 2002; Soria, 2006). It is estimated that seeds can remain viable in the soil for several years. Although it is unknown for this species, we assume that it is similar to other temperate *Rubus* species and that the seeds could remain viable for more than 50 years (Graber and Thompson, 1978; Whitney, 1986). It is estimated that a plant takes six months to produce flowers and fruit in Galapagos where the species produces fruit all year with the quantity depending on the season. There is been increased fruiting at the end of the dry cold season (November-December) with a monthly production of up to 30 fruits per m<sup>2</sup> (Ruiz, 1992; Landazuri, 2002).

## Uses

The fruits of *Rubus niveus* are consumed by birds, rodents, and humans (PIER, 1999) and tortoises. The plant is cultivated throughout the world for its heavy production of sweet fruit (Morton, 1987; Plants For a Future, 2004), which is composed of approximately 7.8% sugar, 0.13% protein, and 0.77% ash (Plants For a Future, 2004). Humans eat the fruits fresh and make them into jams, wine, and candies (PCARRD, 1996). Additionally, the fruit may be used to create a purple to dull blue dye (Plants For a Future, 2004).

Fresh root tips of the species are used to cure excessive bleeding during menses in Chhota Bhangal of Western Himalaya (Uniyal *et al.*, 2006).

Before known to be a problem, the species was planted to make living fences in the agricultural zones in Galapagos.

## Habitat Description

*Rubus niveus* is found in a wide variety of habitats, including woodlands, forest edges, riparian habitats, and disturbed sites (PIER, 1999). In the Garhwal Himalaya it is found on north aspects in consociations of *Betula utilis* and *Quercus semecarpifolia*, as well as consociations of *Quercus dilatata* and silver fir (Osmaston, 1922). It has a large climatic range, and is found at altitudes from 450 to 3000 metres in its native Asia (Morton, 1987). The species prefers well-drained soil, and may grow in either full or partial sun conditions. It can tolerate light freezes, but prolonged freezing temperatures will likely kill it (Morton, 1987). Thus, while in tropical areas the species can grow as a perennial, in areas with severe winters, the species behaves as an annual, coming back every spring for the seed bank or perhaps from root stock. The species is not tolerant of drought (Rachel Atkinson pers.comm May 2011)

## Reproduction

*Rubus niveus* reproduces sexually through the production of thousands of seeds per bush per year (Renteria et al, 2006) as well as vegetatively (Starr et al. 2003).

## General Impacts

*Rubus niveus* may be invasive and overrun native species. It forms dense, impenetrable, thorny thickets which may take over forest, shrubland, and areas of open vegetation. It is said to be "one of the worst weeds threatening the Galapagos National Park" (Rentería et al. 2006). It also affects agricultural land, causing serious economic problems for farmers.

## Management Info

**Mechanical:** Mechanical control of *Rubus niveus* is difficult because the entire plant must be thoroughly removed to prevent regeneration. This is typically only successful when the plants are still small seedlings. The cutting back of plants may also be used as an initial step to chemical control (Starr et al. 2003).  
**Chemical:** Motooka et al. (2003) found triclopyr ester in a crop oil carrier (either as drizzle applications at 1 lb./acre or as very low volume basal bark applications at a 15% concentration) to be successful in the management of *R. niveus*. They note that the species is supposedly resistant to triclopyr ester when water is the carrier. Applications at 1% concentration of a herbicide containing picloram and 2,4, D (commercial name Truper 101) are suggested by the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands (Fundación Charles Darwin y Dirección del Parque Nacional Galapagos 2009).

In Galapagos, tests with pre-emergent herbicides have also yielded positive results: Butarroz (active ingredient butachlor at 2.25%) and Ronstar (active ingredient oxadiazon at 0.6%). These are useful in areas to kill the seed bank, and can be used in conjunction with replanting of natives.

**Biological:** The use of fungal pathogens for biological control of *R. niveus* is being explored, with *Phragmidium barclayi* Dietel, *Phragmidium himalense* J.Y. Zhuang, *Phragmidium octoloculare* Barclay, *Phragmidium shogranense* Petr., and *Pseuercospora* sp. having been identified as fungal pathogens from the species' native range (Ellison and Barreto, 2004).

In Hawai'i, five species of insect were released between 1963 and 1969 to control this species. Three of the five species established, and two were successful; *Schreckensteinia festaliella*, which completely defoliates the plant, and *Croesia zimmermani*, a leaf miner. However, as these species also attack the native *Rubus*, the programme was stopped (Nagata y Markin, 1986).

**Cultural:** Due to the large seed bank, weed control needs to be carried out in tandem with a change of land use to, for example pasture. In Galapagos, competition between introduced grasses (eg *Brachiaria* (*Urochloa decumbens*), or Tanzania (*Panicum maximum* cultivar Tanzania) may help reduce re-invasion by *R. niveus*. In some cleared areas in the Galapagos National Park there have been plantings of the native *Scalesia pedunculata*, an endemic tree of rapid growth, with the aim to provide shade and prevent weed growth. However, the effectiveness of this management tool is not evident.

## Pathway

Introduced into new regions because of the edibility of its fruit. [>>more](#) on the spread of *R. niveus* via the nursery trade.

**Principal source:** [Rentería, Jorge Luis; Rachel Atkinson, Ana Mireya Guerrero, Johanna Mader 2006. Manual de Identificación y Manejo de Malezas en las Islas Galápagos. Segunda edición, Fundación Charles Darwin, Santa Cruz, Galápagos, Ecuador.](#)

[Morton, J. 1987. Mysore Raspberry. p. 109–110. In: Fruits of warm climates. Julia F. Morton, Miami, FL.](#)  
[Pacific Islands Ecosystems at Risk \(PIER\) 1999. Rubus niveus Thunb., Rosaceae.](#)

**Compiler:** National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) & IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)

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## ALIEN RANGE

[1] AUSTRALIA  
 [1] COSTA RICA  
 [1] EL SALVADOR  
 [1] KENYA  
 [1] PUERTO RICO  
 [1] TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF  
 [1] ZIMBABWE

[1] BOLIVIA  
 [7] ECUADOR  
 [1] HONDURAS  
 [1] NICARAGUA  
 [1] SWAZILAND  
 [4] UNITED STATES

**Red List assessed species 1: EN = 1;**

[Mimus melanotis](#) EN

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

22 references found for *Rubus niveus*

### Management information

[Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands \(AISBL\). 2006. Charles Darwin Research Station Fact Sheet: Blackberry Invasion.](#)

**Summary:** This fact sheet provides information on the blackberry invasion throughout the Galapagos Islands. Includes information on the magnitude of the invasion as well as future projects by AISBL to eradicate the species.

Available from: <http://www.darwinfoundation.org/files/species/pdf/blackberry-en.pdf> [Accessed 31 August 2007].

[Ellison, C.A. & R.W. Barreto. 2004. Prospects for the management of invasive alien weeds using co-evolved fungal pathogens: a Latin American perspective \*Biological Invasions\* 6: 23-45.](#)

**Summary:** This article reviews the prospects for the management of invasive alien weeds using co-evolved fungal pathogens, including the pathogens of *R. niveus*.

[Motooka, P., L. Castro, D. Nelson, G. Nagai, and L. Ching. 2003. Weeds of Hawai'i's Pastures and Natural Areas; An Identification and Management Guide. College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.](#)

**Summary:** This article provides a description, the local distribution, and management information for *R. niveus* on the Hawaiian Islands.

Available from: [http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/forestry/Data/WeedsHI/W\\_Rubus\\_niveus.pdf](http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/forestry/Data/WeedsHI/W_Rubus_niveus.pdf) [Accessed 31 August 2007].

[Pacific Islands Ecosystems at Risk \(PIER\) 1999. Rubus niveus Thunb., Rosaceae. Accessed 21 August 2007.](#)

**Summary:** The PIER website provides information on species that have invaded Pacific Island Ecosystems, including *Rubus niveus*.

Available from: [http://www.hear.org/pier/species/rubus\\_niveus.htm](http://www.hear.org/pier/species/rubus_niveus.htm) [Accessed 21 August 2007].

[Rentería, Jorge Luis; Rachel Atkinson, Ana Mireya Guerrero, Johanna Mader 2006. Manual de Identificación y Manejo de Malezas en las Islas Galápagos. Segunda edición. Fundación Charles Darwin, Santa Cruz, Galápagos, Ecuador.](#)

**Summary:** An illustrated guide providing practical information for the effective control of the worst invasive plant species in Galapagos. Designed for farmers and other land managers, it describes manual and chemical control methods. It also includes 8 species that are potential problems for Galapagos. Language: Spanish

Una guía con ilustraciones que provee información para el control efectivo de las peores plantas invasoras en Galápagos. Esta diseñada para los agricultores y personas involucradas en conservación. De una forma clara y simple se describe los métodos de control manuales y químicos; también incluye 8 especies que potencialmente podrían ser un problema para Galápagos. Lenguaje: Español.

[Rentería, Jorge Luis; Rachel Atkinson & Chris Buddenhagen., 2007. Estrategias para la erradicación de 21 especies de plantas. Fundación Charles Darwin, Departamento de Botánica. Programa de Especies Invasoras en Galápagos potencialmente invasoras en Galápagos.](#)

**Summary:** This document comprises costed eradication plans for 21 invasive species in Galapagos. The plans were developed as part of a GEF funded project ECU/00/G31 Control of Invasive species in the Galapagos Archipelago. The management plans report projects at different stages of development and for species that have invaded to different extents. Three of the projects have already been finished successfully, 5 have yet to be started, and for the rest the projects have been running for between 1 and 6 years. The cost and time needed for eradication varies considerably by species and demonstrates the importance of species eradication as soon as possible after detection

Resumen  
El presente documento proporciona planes de manejo y el costo para la erradicación de 21 especies que se encuentran presentes en Galápagos. Los planes fueron desarrollados como parte del proyecto ECU/00/G31 Control de las especies invasoras en el Archipiélago de las Galápagos, suscrito por el Gobierno Ecuatoriano, representado por el Ministerio del Ambiente, con el Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial (GEF). El Proyecto es implementado por el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (UNDP), tiene como instituciones ejecutoras al Servicio Parque Nacional Galápagos (SPNG), Instituto Nacional Galápagos (INGALA), Servicio Ecuatoriano de Sanidad Agropecuaria-Galápagos (SESA-Galápagos), y Fundación Charles Darwin (FCD). Los planes de manejo representan proyectos en diferentes estados de desarrollo y dimensión. Tres de estos proyectos ya han sido desarrollados completamente, trece están en proceso y cinco aún no se han iniciado. El costo y tiempo para la erradicación varía considerablemente según la especie y se muestra la importancia económica que implica desarrollar proyectos de erradicación tan pronto las especies son detectadas.

[Starr, F., K. Starr, and L. Loope. 2003. \*Rubus niveus\* f. a. Hill or Mysore Raspberry, Rosaceae. United States Geological Survey - Biological Resources Division.](#)

**Summary:** This fact sheet provides thorough information on *R. niveus* including management information.

Available from: [http://www.hear.org/starr/hiplants/reports/pdf/rubus\\_niveus\\_f\\_a.pdf](http://www.hear.org/starr/hiplants/reports/pdf/rubus_niveus_f_a.pdf) [Accessed 03 September 2003].

## General information

[Andhra Pradesh Forest Department. 2007. Forest Flora of Andhra Pradesh. Last updated 01 March 2007.](#)

**Summary:** This website details the forest flora of Andhra Pradesh and provides common names for the species in various Indian languages. Available from: <http://forest.ap.nic.in/Forest%20Flora%20of%20Andhra%20Pradesh/Family/Rosaceae.htm> [Accessed 21 August 2007].

[Brunt, A.A., Crabtree, K., Dallwitz, M.J., Gibbs, A.J., Watson, L. and Zurcher, E.J. \(eds.\) 1996. Plant Viruses Online: Descriptions and Lists from the VIDE Database. Version: 20th.](#)

**Summary:** This website details various viruses and the plants they parasitize, including *R. niveus*.

Available from: <http://image.fs.uidaho.edu/vidе/descr668.htm> [Accessed 21 August 2007].

[Hyde, M.A. and B. Wursten. \(2007\). Flora of Zimbabwe: Home page.](#)

**Summary:** An online flora of Zimbabwe.

Available from: [http://www.zimbabweflora.co.zw/speciesdata/species.php?species\\_id=125370](http://www.zimbabweflora.co.zw/speciesdata/species.php?species_id=125370) [Accessed 03 September 2007].

[ITIS \(Integrated Taxonomic Information System\), 2005. Online Database \*Rubus niveus\* Thunb.](#)

**Summary:** An online database that provides taxonomic information, common names, synonyms and geographical jurisdiction of a species. In addition links are provided to retrieve biological records and collection information from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Data Portal and bioscience articles from BioOne journals.

Available from: [http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search\\_topic=TSN&search\\_value=504868](http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=504868) [Accessed 25 July 2007].

[Morton, J. 1987. Mysore Raspberry. p. 109-110. In: Fruits of warm climates. Julia F. Morton, Miami, FL.](#)

**Summary:** This book provides extensive information on species producing fruit in warm climates.

Available from: [http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/morton/mysore\\_raspberry.html](http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/morton/mysore_raspberry.html) [Accessed 21 August 2007].

Osmaston, A.E. 1922. Notes on the Forest Communities of the Garhwal Himalaya. The Journal of Ecology, 10 (2): 129-167.

**Summary:** This article provides notes on the forest communities of the Garhwal Himalaya, including a habitat description and consociations of *R. niveus*.

[Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Research and Development \(PCARRD\). 1996. Processing the Fruits and Leaves of Wildfood Plants into Consumable Products.](#)

**Summary:** This website provides information on processing the fruits and leaves of wildfood plants of the Philippines.

Available from: <http://www.pcarrd.dost.gov.ph/cin/AFIN/Processing%20the%20fruits.htm> [Accessed 21 August 2007].

[Plants For a Future. 2004. \*Rubus niveus\* Thunb. Database for edible, medicinal, and useful plants for a healthier world. Last updated June 2004.](#)

**Summary:** Plants For A Future is a resource center for rare and unusual plants, particularly those which have edible, medicinal, or other uses. Provides general information on *R. niveus*.

Available from: <http://www.pfaf.org/database/plants.php?Rubus+niveus> [Accessed 31 August 2007].

Sillitoe, Paul. 1993. A Ritual Response to Climatic Perturbations in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea. Ethnology, 32 (2): 169-185.

**Summary:** This article examines the coping measures applied by the Wola speakers of Papua New Guinea in times of climatic disturbances and subsequent agricultural upsets.

Swaziland National Trust Commission. 2007. *Rubus niveus*. Swaziland s Alien Plants Database.

**Summary:** A database of Swaziland s alien plant species.

[Tye, Alan. Undated. Invasive Plant Problems and Requirements for Weed Risk Assessment in the Galapagos Islands. Department of Plant and Invertebrate Sciences, Charles Darwin Research Station, Isla Santa Cruz, Galapagos, Ecuador.](#)

**Summary:** A paper assessing invasive weeds and their future impact on the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.

Available from: <http://www.hear.org/iwraw/1999/papers/tyefinal.pdf> [Accessed 03 August 2007].

[Uniyal S.K., K.N. Singh, P. Jamwal, and B. Lal. 2006. Traditional use of medicinal plants among the tribal communities of Chhota Bhargal, Western Himalaya. Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine, 2 \(14\). 8 pages.](#)

**Summary:** This article details the traditional use of medicinal plants among the tribal communities of Chhota Bhargal, Western Himalaya.

[USDA, ARS. 2007. \*Rubus niveus\* Thunb. National Genetics Resources Program. Germoplasm Resources Information Network - \(GRIN\) \[Online Database\]. 21 August 2007. National Germoplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland.](#)

**Summary:** GRIN taxonomic data provide the structure and nomenclature for accessions of the National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS), part of the National Genetic Resources Program (NGRP) of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Agricultural Research Service (ARS). In GRIN Taxonomy for Plants all families and genera of vascular plants and over 40,000 species from throughout the world are represented, especially economic plants and their relatives. Information on scientific and common names, classification, distribution, references, and economic impacts are provided.

Available from: <http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxon.pl?32396> [Accessed 21 August 2007].

[USDA, NRCS. 2007. The PLANTS Database \(<http://plants.usda.gov>, 21 August 2007\). \*Rubus niveus\*. National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.](#)

**Summary:** A website that provides standardized information on the plants of the US.

Available from: <http://www.plants.usda.gov/java/nameSearch?keywordquery=rubus+niveus&mode=sciname&submit.x=18&submit.y=8> [Accessed 21 August 2007].

[w TROPICOS. 2007. \*Rubus niveus\*. The Missouri Botanical Garden's online VAST \(Vascular Tropicos\) nomenclature database and associated authority files](#)

**Summary:** This database provides nomenclature and distribution information of vascular plant and bryophyte species.

Available from: [http://mobot.mobot.org/cgi-bin/search\\_pick?name=Rubus+niveus](http://mobot.mobot.org/cgi-bin/search_pick?name=Rubus+niveus) [Accessed 21 August 2007].