

Abelmoschus moschatus   正體中文

System: Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Magnoliopsida	Fabales	Malvaceae

Common name almizcle vegetal (English), wakeke (Fijian), algalia (English), wakewake (Fijian), `aute toga (Samoan, American Samoa and Samoa), wakiwaki (Fijian), almizcle vegetal (French), karereon (English, Chuuk), gongul (Palauan), fau tagaloa (Samoan, American Samoa and Samoa), metei (English, Pohnpei), ambretta semi (English), kamwayang (Yapese), bisameibisch (German), fautia (English), musk (English), musk mallow (English), okra (English), vakeke (Fijian), okeoke (Fijian), fau ingo (English, Wallis and Futuna), o'e'e (Fijian), aukiki (Fijian), fou ingo (Niuean), kamang (Chamorro, Guam), gombo musqué (English)

Synonym *Hibiscus abelmoschus*, L.

Similar species

Summary *Abelmoschus moschatus* is a weedy, herbaceous plant that is native to India, parts of China and tropical Asia, and some Pacific islands. It is cultivated in India for the musk-like oil contained in its seeds, which is valued for perfume manufacture. It is considered a weed in open and disturbed areas. It has been found to be a suitable host plant for the insect *Dysdercus cingulatus*, which is a serious pest of cotton crops.



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

Species Description

Abelmoschus moschatus is an herbaceous trailing plant that grows to 2m in diameter with soft, hairy stems. It can grow up to 1.5m tall. Leaves are alternate, rough, hairy and heart-shaped. They have 3 to 5 lobes and can grow to 15cm long. Flowers resemble those of the hibiscus and are usually watermelon pink, although they are sometimes white or cream in colour. They last for only one day and their flowering depends on the timing of the wet season. Seeds are contained within hairy capsules up to 8cm long, which are tough but papery. A delicate musk-like odour is produced by the seed coat. (Mishra *et. al*, 2000; PIER, 2003; Townsend, 2000).

Lifecycle Stages

Annual or biennial (Oudhia, 2001).

Uses

Oil obtained from seeds possesses a musk-like odour that is used in the perfume industry. The roots, seeds and sometimes leaves, are used in traditional Indian medicines for a variety of illnesses, including intestinal complaints, constipation, dyspepsia and gonorrhoea (Oudhia, 2001). Valued as an ornamental plant due to its colourful and attractive flowers (Magnolia Gardens Nursery, 2004).

Habitat Description

Abelmoschus moschatus grows in a range of habitats, from marshy areas to forest edges, at elevations of up to 450m. Commonly found in disturbed, open areas, as well as gardens, plantations and ricefields (PIER, 2003). Is able to grow on salt-affected wastelands (Mishra & Naik, 2000).



GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Abelmoschus moschatus*

Reproduction

Propagation can be from seeds, small tubers, or stem cuttings (Townsend, 2000).

General Impacts

Considered a weed in open and disturbed areas (PIER, 2003). Found to be a suitable host species for *Dysdercus cingulatus*, a serious pest of cotton crops (Kohno & Ngan, 2004).

Pathway

Cultivated for aromatic oil from seeds.

Principal source: [PIER, 2003. \(Pacific Island Ecosystems At Risk\) *Abelmoschus moschatus*](#)

Compiler: IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)

Review:

Publication date: 2006-03-23

ALIEN RANGE

[3] AMERICAN SAMOA
[4] FIJI
[3] FRENCH POLYNESIA
[1] GUAM
[1] MARTINIQUE
[1] NIUE
[2] PALAU
[2] SAMOA
[1] UNITED STATES

[6] COOK ISLANDS
[1] FRENCH GUIANA
[1] GUADELOUPE
[1] JAPAN
[11] MICRONESIA, FEDERATED STATES OF
[2] NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
[1] REUNION
[3] TONGA
[1] WALLIS AND FUTUNA

BIBLIOGRAPHY

15 references found for *Abelmoschus moschatus*

Management information

[European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization \(EPPO\), 2006. Guidelines for the management of invasive alien plants or potentially invasive alien plants which are intended for import or have been intentionally imported. EPPO Bulletin 36 \(3\), 417-418.](#)
[PIER \(Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk\) 2003. *Abelmoschus moschatus*](#)

Summary: Ecology, synonyms, common names, distributions (Pacific as well as global), management and impact information.
Available from: http://www.hear.org/pier/species/abelmoschus_moschatus.htm [Accessed 5 December 2004].

General information

Barthelat, F. 2005. Note sur les espèces exotiques envahissantes Mayotte. Direction de l'Agriculture et de la Forêt. 30p

Summary: Tableau synthétique des plantes exotiques de Mayotte classées en fonction de leur niveau d'envahissement.

[Conservatoire Botanique National De Mascarin \(BOULLET V. coord.\) 2007. - *Abelmoschus moschatus* Index de la flore vasculaire de la Réunion \(Trachophytes\) : statuts, menaces et protections. - Version 2007.1](#)

Summary: Base de données sur la flore de La Réunion. De nombreuses informations très utiles.

Available from: <http://flore.cbnm.org/index2.php?page=taxon&num=45c48cce2e2d7fbdea1afc51c7c6ad26> [Accessed 26 March 2008]

Fournet, J. 2002. Flore illustrée des phanogames de Guadeloupe et de Martinique. Gondwana.

[Hoff, M., Cremers, G., Chevillotte, H., de Granville J.-J., Guérin V. & Molino J.-F., 2007. Base de données botaniques Aublet2 de l'Herbier de Guyane française \(CAY\).](#)

Summary: Base de données sur les spécimens botaniques collectés sur le plateau des Guyanes, surtout en Guyane Française, et déposés à l'Herbier de Guyane.

Available from: <http://www.cayenne.ird.fr/aublet2/Referentiel.html> [Accessed 11 April 2008]

[ITIS \(Integrated Taxonomic Information System\), 2004. Online Database *Abelmoschus moschatus*](#)

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=21772 [Accessed December 31 2004]

Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) 2026. Species profile *Abelmoschus moschatus*. Available from: <https://iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=15> [Accessed 20 April 2026]



GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Abelmoschus moschatus*

Kohno, K., Ngan, B. T. 2004. Effects of host plant species on the development of *Dysdercus cingulatus* (Heteroptera: Pyrrhocoridae). *Applied Entomological Zoology* 39(1): 183-187.

Summary: This paper came to the conclusion that *A. moschatus* is able to act as a host plant for *Dysdercus cingulatus*, a serious pest of cultivated cotton.

[Magnolia Gardens Nursery. 2004.](#)

Summary: A webpage for a nursery that sells *A. moschatus* as an ornamental plant.

Available from: http://www.magnoliagardensnursery.com/productdescrip/Hibiscus_JapRed.html. [Accessed on 15 December, 2004].

Mishra, D. K., Naik, S. N. 2000. Cultivation and processing of *Abelmoschus moschatus*. *Journal of Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Sciences* 22(1B): 624-628.

Summary: Information on the yields from cultivated *A. moschatus* in India.

Mishra, H. O., Shukla, N., Lal, R. K., Naqvi, A. A., Singh, N., Sharma, J. R. 2000. Induced variation for qualitative and quantitative traits in muskdana (*Abelmoschus moschatus*). *Journal of Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Sciences* 22(1B): 629-632.

Summary: Describes research on the production of different commercial varieties of *A. moschatus*.

[Oudhia, P. 2001. Muskdana or ambrette \(*Abelmoschus moschatus*\): aromatic and medicinal.](#)

Summary: Basic information on the cultivation and use of *A. moschatus* in India.

Available from: <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/CropFactSheets/muskdana.html>. [Accessed on 15 December, 2004].

[Randall, R. 2001. The Global Compendium of Weeds: *Abelmoschus moschatus*.](#)

Summary: A very small amount of information on distribution and common names.

Available from: <http://www.hear.org/gcw/html/autogend/species/9.HTM>. [Accessed on 15 December, 2004].

Smith A. C. 1981. Flora Vitiensis Nova: A New Flora of Fiji. Lawai, Kauai, Hawaii. National Tropical Botanical Garden 2: 423.

[Townsend, K. 2000. *Abelmoschus moschatus* subsp. *tuberosus*.](#)

Summary: Some basic information on *A. moschatus* in Australia.

Available from: <http://farrer.riv.csu.edu.au/ASGAP/a-mos.html>. [Accessed 15 December, 2004].