

Dichrostachys cinerea  [简体中文](#) [正體中文](#)

System: Terrestrial

| Kingdom | Phylum | Class | Order | Family |
|---------|---------------|---------------|---------|----------|
| Plantae | Magnoliophyta | Magnoliopsida | Fabales | Fabaceae |

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](#)

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, undulate 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.



GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Dichrostachys cinerea*

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)

Review: J. Fournet, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Guadeloupe.

Publication date: 2005-04-13

ALIEN RANGE

[1] CUBA

[1] MARTINIQUE

[1] REUNION

[1] JAMAICA

[1] MAYOTTE

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

[Peltophryne cataulaciceps](#) **EN**

[Peltophryne gundlachi](#) **VU**

[Peltophryne empusa](#) **VU**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

9 references found for *Dichrostachys cinerea*

Management information

Daehler, C.C.; Denslow, J.S.; Ansari, S and Huang-Chi, K., 2004. A Risk-Assessment System for Screening Out Invasive Pest Plants from Hawaii and Other Pacific Islands. Conservation Biology Volume 18 Issue 2 Page 360.

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.

Available from: http://www.hear.org/pier/species/dichrostachys_cinerea.htm [Accessed 5 February 2003].

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.

[Centre des ressources biologiques. Plantes tropicales. INRA-CIRAD. 2007.](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://collections.antilles.inra.fr/> [Accessed 31 March 2008]

[Conservatoire Botanique National De Mascarin \(BOULLET V. coord.\) 2007. - *Dichrostachys cinerea* 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=7b4773c039d539af17c883eb9283dd14> [Accessed 26 March 2008]

Fournet, J. 2002. Flore illustrée des phanogames de guadeloupe et de Martinique. CIRAD-Gondwana editions.



GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Dichrostachys cinerea*

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

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.cbif.gc.ca/pls/itisca/taxastep?king=every&p_action=containing&taxa=Dichrostachys+cinerea&p_format=&p_ifx=plglt&p_lang=
[Accessed December 31 2004]

Joseph, P. 2006. Les Petites Antilles face aux risques d'invasion par les espèces végétales introduites. L'exemple de la Martinique. *Revue d'Ecologie (Terre et Vie)* 61: 209-224.

[Kueffer, C. & Lavergne, C. 2004. Case studies on the status of invasive woody plant species in the Western Indian Ocean. *Reunion, FAO*. 36 p](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/webview/media?mediaId=6842&langId=2> [Accessed 26 March 2008]