

*Canna indica*  [简体中文](#) [正體中文](#)

**System:** Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Liliopsida	Zingiberales	Cannaceae

**Common name**

gasau ni ga (English, Fiji), balisier rouge (French), pia renga (English, Cook Islands (Aitutaki)), African arrowroot (English), fagafaga (English, Futuna), bakare kare (Hausa, Nigeria), gwangwa (English), bakalele (Hausa, Nigeria), Queensland arrowroot (English, South America), achira (English, Andes), nuaenga (English, Cook Islands), gwangwaama (English), toolima (South American Creole), apeellap (English, Puluwat), luiuenwai (English, Pohnpei), fagamanu (English, American Samoa & Samoa), English shot (English, South America), chupa flor (Spanish), riti (English, Kiribati), mongos halum-tano (English, Guam), oruuru (English, Puluwat), calenda (English, South America), te misimisi (English, Tonga), canna lily (English), canna (English), poloke (English, Hawaii), Fanamanu (English, Samoa), fa'i masoa (English, American Samoa & Samoa), pia-raroto'a (English, French Polynesia), tous-les-mois (French), Indian shot (English), Balisier comestible (French), poloka (English, Hawaii), ali'ipoe, li'ipoe (English, Hawaii), tiare papa'a (English, Cook Islands (Mangaia))

## Synonym

*Canna edulis* , Ker-Gawl.  
*Canna bifida* , Schult.  
*Canna floribunda* , Bouché  
*Canna fulgida* , Bouché  
*Canna fulgida* , Bouché  
*Canna heliconiifolia* , Bouché  
*Canna formosa* , Bouché  
*Canna humilis* , Bouché  
*Canna exigua* , Bouché  
*Canna densifolia* , Bouché  
*Canna ehrenbergii* , Bouché  
*Canna commutata* , Bouché  
*Canna compacta* , Bouché  
*Canna cinnabarina* , Bouché  
*Canna aurantiaca* , Roscoe  
*Canna aureovittata* , Lodd.  
*Canna bidentata* , Bertol.  
*Canna carnea* , Roscoe  
*Canna cearensis* , Huber  
*Canna chinensis* , Willd.  
*Canna coccinea* , Link  
*Canna coccinea* , Mill.  
*Canna coccinea* , Mill.var. *sylvestris*(Roscoe) Regel  
*Canna coccinea* , Mill.var. *bicolor*Kraenzl  
*Canna compacta* , Roscoe  
*Canna crocea* , Roem. & Schult.  
*Canna crocea* , Lag. ex Rchb.  
*Canna discolor* , Lindl.  
*Canna ellipticifolia* , Stokes  
*Canna edulis* , KerGawl.  
*Canna esculenta* , Lodd. ex Loudon  
*Canna flavescens* , Link  
*Canna indica* , L.var. *nepalensis*(Bouché) Hook.f.  
*Canna lutea* , Mill.var. *genuina* Kraenzl.  
*Canna lutea* , Mill.  
*Canna lutea* , Mill. var. *aurantiaca* (Roscoe) Regel  
*Canna limbata* , Roscoe  
*Canna lanuginosa* , Roscoe  
*Canna lambertii* , Lindl.  
*Canna lagunensis* , Lindl.  
*Canna indica* , L.var. *limbata*(Roscoe) Petersen  
*Canna laeta* , Bouché  
*Canna leptochila* , Bouché  
*Canna indica* , L.var. *maculata*Hook.  
*Canna indica* , L.var. *speciosa* (Roscoe) Hook.f.  
*Canna indica* , L.var. *patens* Aiton  
*Canna indica* , L.var. *coccinea*(Mill.) Aiton  
*Canna indica* , L.var. *edwardsii*Regel  
*Canna lutea* , Mill.var. *pallida*(Roscoe) Regel  
*Canna barbadica* , Bouché  
*Canna achiras* , Gillies  
*Canna heliconiifolia* , Bouché var. *xalapensis*(Bouché) Kraenzl  
*Canna indica* , L.var. *rubra* Aiton

## Similar species

## Summary

*Canna indica* is a native of tropical America and is a very popular ornamental plant throughout the tropical world. This plant has become an invasive in Pitcairn and in New Zealand, where it grows in thickets, crowding out other plants. It is spread by rhizomes making it difficult to remove.



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

## Species Description

*Canna indica* is an upright perennial rhizomatous herb (Foxcroft and Richardson, 2003). It is "not usually over 5 ft high; leaves rather fleshy, with thin margins, usually not more than 1 ft. long and half as broad, lanceolate to sub-orbicular, veins arching-parallel. Flowers red, yellow or variegated, showy, the staminodia black, capsular, nearly globose, enclosing a variable number of round, shiny black seeds" (Stone, 1970. In PIER, 2003).

## Notes

There are cultivated hybrids of *C. indica*. There are ten species of *Canna* to be found in the neotropics (Hiltje Maas., pers.comm., 2005).

## Uses

The plant is used in traditional medicine and the rhizome is used in traditional foods. Seeds are used in jewellery making and the fibre from the leaves is used to make paper. Seeds may have been used in flintlock muskets when lead shot wasn't available. The small BB-like seeds of Indian shot are commonly used in seed bracelets and gold earrings also. (Wayne's Word, 1998)

## Habitat Description

In Hawai'i, "naturalised primarily in disturbed mesic to wet forest, 10-610m" (Wagner *et al.* 1999. In PIER, 2003). In Fiji, "this distinctive plant is naturalised and often frequent around villages, along roadsides, in coconut plantations, in clearings, and in forest near streams, at elevations from near sea level to 450 m" (Smith, 1979. In PIER, 2003).

## Reproduction

Propagates by seed and rhizomes, (PIER, 2003).

## General Impacts

Grows in thickets, crowding out other plants. It is difficult to remove due to its spread by rhizomes (PIER, 2003).

## Pathway

Cannas are popular cultivated flowers in tropical and temperate gardens. (Wayne's Word, 1998)

**Principal source:** [Pacific Islands Ecosystems at Risk, \(PIER\), 2004. \*Canna indica\*](#)

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

**Review:** Dr. Hitje Mass. Herbarium Division \ Department of Plant Ecology and Evolutionary Biology \ University of Utrecht. The Netherlands.

**Publication date:** 2006-04-11

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## ALIEN RANGE

Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) 2026. Species profile *Canna indica*. Available from: <https://iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=640> [Accessed 22 June 2026]

[4] AMERICAN SAMOA	[1] ATLANTIC - WESTERN CENTRAL
[4] AUSTRALIA	[1] BERMUDA
[6] COOK ISLANDS	[9] FIJI
[3] FRENCH POLYNESIA	[1] GEORGIA
[1] GUAM	[1] IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF
[2] KIRIBATI	[1] LESSER ANTILLES
[3] MARSHALL ISLANDS	[1] MEXICO
[9] MICRONESIA, FEDERATED STATES OF	[1] NETHERLANDS
[1] NEW CALEDONIA	[1] NEW ZEALAND
[1] NIUE	[1] NORFOLK ISLAND
[2] NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	[7] PALAU
[1] PITCAIRN	[1] PUERTO RICO
[1] REUNION	[2] SAINT HELENA
[2] SAMOA	[1] SOLOMON ISLANDS
[2] SOUTH AFRICA	[1] SWAZILAND
[6] TONGA	[1] TUVALU
[9] UNITED STATES	[1] VANUATU
[1] VIRGIN ISLANDS, U.S.	[1] WALLIS AND FUTUNA

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### 24 references found for *Canna indica*

#### 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 \(Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk\), 2002. \*Canna indica\*](#)

**Summary:** Ecology, synonyms, common names, distributions (Pacific as well as global), management and impact information.  
 Available from: [http://www.hear.org/pier/species/canna\\_indica.htm](http://www.hear.org/pier/species/canna_indica.htm) [Accessed 23 June 2003]

Swaziland s Alien Plants Database., Undated. *Canna indica*

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

[Varnham, K. 2006. Non-native species in UK Overseas Territories: a review. JNCC Report 372. Peterborough: United Kingdom.](#)

**Summary:** This database compiles information on alien species from British Overseas Territories.

Available from: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3660> [Accessed 10 November 2009]

#### General information

Bingelli, P. & Starmer, J. 1997. Pitcairn Island. Aliens 6 (Newsletter of the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group). In: Varnham, K. (2005) Non-native species in UK Overseas Territories: a review. JNCC Report 372. Peterborough, United Kingdom.

Blench, R. 2003. Hausa names for plants and trees (Draft). Overseas Development Institute.

**Summary:** This draft paper gives the Hausa names for plants and trees.

[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. - \*Canna indica\* 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=dc87c13749315c7217cdc4ac692e704c> [Accessed 26 March 2008]

DeFilippis, R.A., Maina, S.L., and Crepin, J. 2004. Medicinal Plants of the Guianas (Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana). Department of Botany, Natural Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. Washington D.C.

**Summary:** This report gives information about plants of the Guianas and their introduction to Europe.

Diaz-Betancourt, M., Lopez-Moreno, I.R., Rapoport, E.H., Ghermandi, L., Raffaele, E. and Ladio, A. 2001. Weeds as a future source for human consumption. *Plants For A Future*.

**Summary:** This paper gives information about edible plants in Mexico and Argentina.

[Florence J., Chevillotte H., Ollier C. & Meyer J.-Y. 2007. \*Canna indica\* Base de données botaniques Nadeaud de l'Herbier de la Polynésie française \(PAP\).](#)

**Summary:** Base de données sur le flore de Polynésie Française.

Available from: [http://www.herbier-tahiti.pf/Selection\\_Taxonomie.php?id\\_tax=8766](http://www.herbier-tahiti.pf/Selection_Taxonomie.php?id_tax=8766) [Accessed 26 March 2008]

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

Foxcroft, L.C. and Richardson, D.M. 2003. Managing alien plant invasions in the Kruger National Park, South Africa. *Plant Invasions: Ecological Threats and Management Solutions*. 385-403.

**Summary:** This paper gives details about the invasive plant species in the Kruger National Park.

Groves, R.H. (Convenor), Hosking, J.R., Batianoff, G.N., Cooke, D.A., Cowie, I.D., Johnson, R.W., Keighery, G.J., Lepschi, B.J., Mitchell, A.A., Moerkerk, M., Randall, R.P., Rozefelds, A.C., Walsh N.G., and Waterhouse, B.M. 2003. Weed categories for natural and agricultural ecosystem management. Bureau of Rural Sciences, Canberra.

**Summary:** This document gives the status of all weed species found in Australia.

Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) 2026. Species profile *Canna indica*. Available from:

<https://iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=640> [Accessed 22 June 2026]



# GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Canna indica*

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

**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=42413](http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=42413) [Accessed December 31 2004]

Kingston, N and Waldren, S; 2004. A conservation appraisal of the rare and endemic vascular plants of Pitcairn Island Biodiversity and Conservation

MacKee, H.S. 1994. Catalogue des plantes introduites et cultivées en Nouvelle-Calédonie, 2nd edn. MNHN, Paris.

**Summary:** Cet ouvrage liste 1412 taxons (espèces, sous espèces et variétés) introduits en Nouvelle-Calédonie. L'auteur précise dans la majorité des cas si l'espèce est cultivée ou naturalisée.

Meyer, Jean-Yves & Loope, Lloyd & Sheppard, A. & Munzinger, Jérôme & Jaffré, Tanguy. (2006). Les plantes envahissantes et potentiellement envahissantes dans l'archipel néo-calédonien : première évaluation et recommandations de gestion.

[Meyer, J.-Y. 2000. Invasive plants in the Pacific Islands. In: The Invasive Species in the Pacific: A Technical Review and Draft Regional Strategy. Sherley, G. \(tech. ed\). Published in June 2000 by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme \(SPREP\).](#)

**Summary:** Resource that includes the distribution of invasive species throughout the Pacific Islands.

Oberholzer, I.G. and Hill, M.P. 2001. How safe is the grasshopper *Cornops aquaticum* for release on water hyacinth in South Africa? In: Biological and integrated control of water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*. 82-88. Julien, M.H., Hill, M.P., Center, T.D. and Jianqing, D. (eds). ACIAR Proceedings 102.

**Summary:** This paper gives information about the impacts of *Cornops aquaticum* on plants in South Africa.

Smith, C.W., Stemmermann, L., Higashino, P.K., and Funk, E. 1986. Vascular Plants of Pu uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park, Hawaii. Cooperative National Park Resources Studies Unit. University of Hawaii.

**Summary:** This report gives information about the vascular plants present in Pu uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park in Hawaii.

[USDA-NRCS \(Natural Resource Conservation Service\) 2006. \*Canna indica\*. The PLANTS Database Version 3.5 \[Online Database\] National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA](#)

**Summary:** Available from: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=CAIN19> [Accessed 24 March 2006]

[Wayne s Word, 1998. \*Canna indica\*: Indian Shot. A Newsletter Of Natural History Trivia.](#)

**Summary:** Interesting general and historical information on the Indian Shot.

Available from: <http://waynesword.palomar.edu/pljune98.htm> [Accessed 23 June 2003]

Wunderlin & Hansen, 2003. Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants. Institute for Systematic Botany.

**Summary:** Synonyms.