

*Hiptage benghalensis* ✖ ✖ ✖

**System:** Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Magnoliopsida	Polygalales	Malpighiaceae

**Common name** chandravalli (Sanskrit, India), kamuka (Sanskrit, India), haldavel (Malayalam, India), liane de cerf (French), benghalen-Liane (German), hiptage (English), madhumalati (Malayalam, India), adimurte (Kanarese, India), kampti (Hindi, India), Madhavi (Kanarese, India), ragotpiti (Gujrati, India), atimukta (Hindi, India), madhalata (Hindi, India), madhavi (Gujrati, India), madmalati (Hindi, India), vasantduti (Kanarese, India), adirganti (Kanarese, India)

**Synonym** *Banisteria benghalensis*, L.  
*Triopteris jamaicensis*, L.  
*Hiptage madablota*, Gaertn.  
*Banisteria benghalensis*, L.  
*Banisteria tetraptera*, Sonnerat  
*Banisteria unicapsularis*, Lam.  
*Gaertnera indica*, J.F.Gmel.  
*Gaertnera obtusifolia*, (DC.) Roxb.  
*Gaertnera racemosa*, Vahl  
*Hiptage benghalensis*, (L.) Kurz forma *typica* Nied.  
*Hiptage benghalensis*, (L.) Kurz forma *macroptera* (Merr.) Nied.  
*Hiptage benghalensis*, (L.) Kurz forma *latifolia* Nied.  
*Hiptage macroptera*, Merr.  
*Hiptage javanica*, Blume  
*Hiptage madablota*, Gaertn.  
*Hiptage malaiensis*, Nied.  
*Hiptage obtusifolia*, DC.  
*Hiptage pinnata*, Elmer  
*Hiptage teysmannii*, Arènes  
*Molina racemosa*, Cav.  
*Succowia fimbriata*, Dennst.  
*Hieracium floribundum*, Wimm. & Grab. (pro sp.) [*caespitosum lactucella*]  
*Hiptage benghalensis*, (L.) Kurz forma *cochinchinensis* Pierre

## Similar species

**Summary** *Hiptage benghalensis* is a native of India, Southeast Asia and the Philippines. The genus name, *Hiptage*, is derived from the Greek "hiptamai" which means "to fly" and refers to its unique three-winged fruit known as "samara". Due to the beautiful unique form of its flowers, it is often cultivated as a tropical ornamental in gardens. It has been recorded as being a weed in Australian rainforests and is extremely invasive on Mauritius and Réunion, where it thrives in dry lowland forests, forming impenetrable thickets and smothering native vegetation.



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



## Species Description

*H. benghalensis* is a high-climbing liana (woody, climbing vine) or large shrub, with white or yellowish hairs; leaves lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, to 20cm (8 in.) long; flowers pink to white, with yellow marks, in 10-30-flowered racemes (Bailey and Bailey 1976, in PIER, 2002). It has scandent branches up to 5m high. Leaves simple, opposite, blade usually elliptic and 6-18cm long (2.5-7 in) with an attenuate tip. The plant flowers intermittently during the year, and produces fragrant flowers borne in compact axillary racemes. The corolla consists of five free, elliptic to round, reflexed petals 1-1.7cm long (3/8-3/4 in), white with one petal yellow in the center, margins fringed. Fruit a samara with three spreading, papery oblanceolate to elliptic wing 2-5cm long (3/4-2 in) (Whistler 2000, in Starr *et al.* 2003).

## Uses

*H. benghalensis* is widely cultivated in the tropics for its attractive and fragrant flowers; it can be trimmed to form a small tree or shrub or can be trained as a vine (Whistler 2000, in Starr Starr and Loope 2003). It is also occasionally cultivated for medicinal purposes (Starr Starr and Loope 2003). *Hiptage* holds a reputed position in Indian medicine. The leaves and bark are hot, acrid, bitter, insecticidal, vulnerary and useful in treatment of biliousness, cough, burning sensation, thirst and inflammation; it has the ability to treat skin diseases and leprosy (Agharkar, 1991).

## Habitat Description

Habitat variable (Bailey and Bailey, 1976, cited in PIER, 2002). Prefers climates ranging from warm temperate to tropical. Dry and moist areas from sea level to 1000m (3500 ft.) elevation in Hawai'i (PIER, 2002).

## Reproduction

Propagation occurs *via* seeds or cuttings. The seeds are readily dispersed by wind. (PIER, 2002)

## General Impacts

*H. benghalensis* is reported as invasive in Florida, Hawaii, La Réunion, Mauritius and Western Australia (Randall 2002, in Starr Starr and Loope 2003). The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC 2001) lists *H. benghalensis* as a category II plant, which are species that have shown a potential to disrupt native plant communities (Starr Starr and Loope 2003). Randall (2002) lists this species in the global compendium of weeds for Western Australia (Starr Starr and Loope 2003) and in tropical Australian rainforests it is a pest (Grice and Setter 2002). On Réunion island it spreads widely by its wind-dispersed seeds and it reported to climb over and smother native vegetation (PIER 2002, in Starr Starr and Loope 2003). It is also reported as invasive in Mauritius (PIER 2002, in Starr Starr and Loope 2003). *H. benghalensis* is reported as invasive in Hawaii (PIER 2002, in Starr Starr and Loope 2003). In addition, this species is listed by Staples *et al.* (2000) in their checklist of invasive or potentially invasive cultivated plants in Hawaii (Starr Starr and Loope 2003).

## Management Info

Education and public awareness are appropriate cultural controls to ensure the weed is not planted as an ornamental near environmentally precious areas. In countries with tropical regions and warm climates such as Palau it is recommended that troublesome species (including *H. benghalensis*) should be prevented from reaching the country and establishing in native ecosystems such as tropical rainforests. Weed species should receive high priority for exclusion from entry into the country and promptly evaluated for eradication if found to be present. It is essential that plant growers are aware of the species' potential to become invasive in the wild (Starr Starr and Loope 2003).

## Pathway

Ornamental (GRIN-CA, 2002)

**Principal source:** [Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk \(PIER\), 2002.](#)



# GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Hiptage benghalensis*

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

**Review:** Wendy Stahm Ph.D., IUCN Plants Officer.

**Publication date:** 2006-07-24

## ALIEN RANGE

[2] AUSTRALIA

[1] REUNION

[1] MAURITIUS

[4] UNITED STATES

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

[Coffea myrtifolia](#) EN

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

24 references found for *Hiptage benghalensis*

### Management information

[Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council \(FLEPPC\), 2001. List of Invasive Species.](#)

**Summary:** List of Invasive species in Florida, their category, common names and their general distribution in Florida.

Available from: [www.fleppc.org/01list.htm](http://www.fleppc.org/01list.htm) [Accessed 5 February 2003]

Hivert, J. 2003. Plantes exotiques envahissantes - Etat des méthodes de lutte mise en oeuvre par l'Office National des Forêts de la Réunion. ONF Réunion.

**Summary:** Synthèse des méthodes de lutte employées par l'ONF de la Réunion contre une vingtaine de plantes exotiques envahissantes.

[Information Ventures, Inc. Triclopyr - Pesticide Fact Sheet.](#)

**Summary:** Triclopyr herbicide fact sheet prepared for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Available from: <http://infoventures.com/e-hlth/pesticide/triclopyr.html> [Accessed 5 February 2003]

Kueffer, C. and Mauremootoo, J., 2004. Case Studies on the Status of Invasive Woody Plant Species in the Western Indian Ocean. 3. Mauritius (Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues). Forest Health & Biosecurity Working Papers FBS/4-3E. Forestry Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy.

[PIER \(Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk\), 2002. Hiptage benghalensis](#)

**Summary:** Ecology, synonyms, common names, distributions (Pacific as well as global), management and impact information.

Available from: [http://www.hear.org/pier/species/hiptage\\_benghalensis.htm](http://www.hear.org/pier/species/hiptage_benghalensis.htm) [Accessed 5 February 2003].

[Space, J.C. and Flynn, T. 2002. Report to the Government of the Cook Islands on Invasive Plant Species of Environmental Concern. U.S.D.A. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station:Honolulu. \[Accessed 13 February 2006, from: \]](#)

**Summary:** Cook Island management of invasive plants including yellow ginger.

Available from: [http://www.hear.org/pier/pdf/cook\\_islands\\_report.pdf](http://www.hear.org/pier/pdf/cook_islands_report.pdf) [Accessed 13 February]

[Starr, F., Starr, K., Loope, L. 2003. Plants of Hawaii. United States Geological Survey--Biological Resources Division. Haleakala Field Station, Maui, Hawaii.](#)

**Summary:** A review of information on *Hiptage benghalensis*.

Available from: [http://www.hear.org/starr/hiplants/reports/html/hiptage\\_benghalensis.htm](http://www.hear.org/starr/hiplants/reports/html/hiptage_benghalensis.htm) [Accessed 25 February 2003].

### General information

Agharkar, S.P. 1991. Medicinal plants of Bombay presidency. Pbl. Scientific Publishes, Jodhpur, India, p.p. 115-116

**Summary:** Medicinal Uses of *Hiptage benghalensis*

[Conservatoire Botanique National De Mascarin \(BOULLET V. coord.\) 2007. - Hiptage benghalensis Index de la flore vasculaire de la Réunion \(Trachéophytes\) : statuts, menaces et protections. - Version 2007.1 \(mise à jour 12 juin 2007\).](#)

**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=5401acfe633e6817b508b84d23686743> [Accessed 1 April 2008]

[Grice, A. C. and Setter, M.J. 2002. Weeds of Rainforests and Associated Ecosystems. Cooperative Research Centre for Tropical Rainforest Ecology and Management. Rainforest CRC, Cairns. \[Accessed 10 March 2006, from: \]](#)

<http://www.rainforest-crc.jcu.edu.au/publications/research%20reports/ReportPDFs/weedsOfRainforests.pdf>

[ITIS \(Integrated Taxonomic Information System\), 2005. Online Database Hiptage benghalensis](#)

**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=Hiptage+benghalensis&p\\_format=&p\\_ifx=plgt&p\\_lang=](http://www.cbif.gc.ca/pls/itisca/taxastep?king=every&p_action=containing&taxa=Hiptage+benghalensis&p_format=&p_ifx=plgt&p_lang=) [Accessed March 2005]

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

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

Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) 2024. Species profile *Hiptage benghalensis*. Available from: <https://iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=87> [Accessed 25 July 2024] Page. 3

MacDonald, I. A. W., Thebaud, C., Strahm, W. A., Strasberg, D. 1991. Effects of alien plant invasions on native vegetation remnants on La Reunion (Mascarenes Islands, Indian Ocean). *Environmental Conservation* 18 (1):51-61.

**Summary:** Cet article est le premier à proposer une hiérarchisation des plantes les plus envahissantes de La Réunion. 33 plantes ont été ainsi classées en utilisant une méthode développée en Afrique du Sud. Les bases d'une stratégie de lutte contre les plantes exotiques envahissantes sont également formulées.

[Plants Database, 2002. U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\).](#)

**Summary:** Comprehensive information concerning taxonomy, distribution, life-history and ecology.

Available from: [http://plants.usda.gov/cgi\\_bin/topics.cgi](http://plants.usda.gov/cgi_bin/topics.cgi) [Accessed 29 January 2003].

[Plants of Hawaii, 2005. \*Hiptage benghalensis\* \(Hiptage Malpighiaceae\).](#)

**Summary:** Available from: [http://www.hear.org/starr/hiplants/images/thumbnails/html/hiptage\\_benghalensis.htm](http://www.hear.org/starr/hiplants/images/thumbnails/html/hiptage_benghalensis.htm) [Accessed March 10 2006]  
Queensland Herbarium, 2002. Invasive Naturalised Plants in Southeast Queensland, ranked list.

**Summary:** Extracted from: Batiannoff, George N. and Butler, Don W. (2002). Assessment of Invasive naturalized plants in south-east Queensland. Appendix. *Plant Protection Quarterly* 17, 27-34. This site records the top 200 invasive plants in Queensland.

Available from: [http://www.env.qld.gov.au/environment/science/herbarium/invasive\\_rank.pdf](http://www.env.qld.gov.au/environment/science/herbarium/invasive_rank.pdf) [Accessed 5 February 2003]

[Space, J.C., Waterhouse, B.M., Miles, J.E., Tiobech, J. and Rengulbai, K. 2003. Report to the Republic of Palau on Invasive Plant Species of Environmental Concern. U.S.D.A. Forest Service. \[Accessed 10 March 2006, from: \[http://hear.org/pier/pdf/palau\\\_report.pdf\]\(http://hear.org/pier/pdf/palau\_report.pdf\)](#)

**Summary:** Available from: [http://hear.org/pier/pdf/palau\\_report.pdf](http://hear.org/pier/pdf/palau_report.pdf) [Accessed 29 March 2006]

[Starr, F., Starr, K. and Loope, L. 2003. \*Hiptage benghalensis\* \(Hiptage Moraceae\). \*Plants of Hawaii\*. 2003.](#)

**Summary:** A review of information on *Hiptage benghalensis*.

Strahm, Wendy. 25 February 2003. Ph.D., IUCN Plants Officer.

**Summary:** Email. (personal communication, 2003)

Tassin, J., Lavergne, C., Muller, S., Blanfort, V., Baret, S., Le Bourgeois, T., Triolo, J., & Riviére, J.-N. 2006. Bilan des connaissances sur les conséquences écologiques des invasions de plantes ligneuses de La Réunion (archipel des Mascareignes, océan Indien). *Revue d'Ecologie (La Terre et la Vie)*. 61, 35-51.

**Summary:** Cet article propose un bilan des méthodes et des résultats relatifs aux études traitant de la connaissance des conséquences écologiques des invasions de plantes exotiques.

Tassin, J., Riviére, J.N., Cazanove, M., Bruzseses, E. 2006. Ranking of invasive woody plant species for management on Réunion Island. *Weed research* 46, 388-403

**Summary:** L'inventaire de 318 espèces de plantes ligneuses introduites à la Réunion, permet d'en identifier 132 comme naturalisées dans les écosystèmes naturels. 26 de ces espèces choisies parmi les plus envahissantes ont été classées en fonction de leur impact biologique sur les écosystèmes indigènes.

[USDA, ARS, 2002. \*Hiptage benghalensis\* National Genetic Resources Program. Germplasm Resources Information Network - \(GRIN\) \[Online Database\]. National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland](#)

**Summary:** The Germplasm Resources Information Network - Canadian Version (GRIN-CA) web server provides germplasm information about plants within the Plant Gene Resources of Canada (PGRC) division of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). GRIN-CA was created from the United States Department of Agriculture's National Plant Germplasm System (GRIN).

Available from: <http://pgrc3.agr.ca/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxon.pl?19180> [Accessed 25 February 2003]

Verma, D.M. Balakrishnan, M.P. and Dixit, R.D. (1993). *Flora of Madhya Pradesh*. Vol. I., Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata, India. P. 240.

**Summary:** Distribution in India.

[Wunderlin, R. P. and Hansen, B. F. 2003. Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants.](#)

**Summary:** A comprehensive searchable database of vascular plants in the state of Florida, USA.

Available from: <http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/main.asp?plantID=4118> [Accessed 5 February 2003].