

The California Invasive Plant Council Student Chapter recommends that you

DON'T PLANT

CAPE IVY



Photos: Charles Webber / Kai Palenscar

Scientific Name: *Delairea odorata* (*Senecio mikanioides*)

Other Common Names: African ivy, climbing groundsel, German ivy

Description:

This plant is an evergreen fleshy perennial vine with stems growing to several meters long. The leaves are shiny, smooth, palmate with 5-7 pointed lobes, and blades are from 3-10 cm long and 3-6 cm wide. Flowers bloom in spring with dense terminal discoid yellow heads to 4.5 mm long. This plant may be confused with a native vine, wild cucumber (*Marah macrocarpus*). The leaves are similar in appearance but the native species has fine hairs on the leaves and produces large spine-covered fruit.

Biology, Habitat, and Spread:

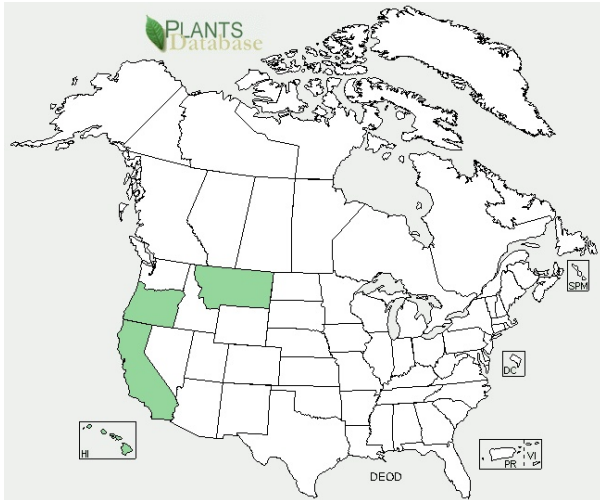
In California this species grows in coastal areas and is considered a noxious weed throughout its range. Its native range is South Africa. In inland areas this plant may be found along drainages in moist areas or when water is supplemented. Reproduction is sexual or vegetative where seeds are wind-dispersed and stems root as they extend along the ground. Plants have been shown to be self incompatible so multiple plants are necessary to produce viable seeds.

Impact:

This vine grows vigorously and will cover shrubs/trees crowding out and smothering native vegetation. Like other senecio species this plant may also be toxic to livestock if ingested.

Native Range: South Africa

Invaded Range:



Control Methods:

Plants can be physically removed through stem and root removal, solarized, or treated with a foliar pesticide. Glyphosate and triclopyr have been shown to effectively manage this species in wildland areas. Biocontrol insects from South Africa are currently being tested and may also provide an effective future tool for management.

Alternatives:



Wild Strawberry
Fragaria spp.

Strawberries make an attractive evergreen groundcover. Flowers are white with five petals and fruit are edible. Plants will spread with age to fill larger areas. Native species available. Drought tolerant.

Photo: Jo-Ann Ordano



"Pigeon Point" Dwarf Coyotebush
Baccharis pilularis

This is an evergreen plant that grows to 1ft tall and 12ft wide. Good plant for slope stabilization. White flowers in spring. Native and drought tolerant.

Photo: www.laspilitas.com



Catalina currant
Ribes viburnifolium

This is an evergreen small shrub to 3ft that prefers partial shade and a wide range of watering conditions. Good plant for slope stabilization and within shady conditions. Native and drought tolerant.

Photo: www.laspilitas.com

References:

California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) - <http://www.cal-ipc.org>
Las Pilitas Nursery Website - <http://www.laspilitas.com/nature-of-california/plants/ribes-viburnifolium>
Robison, R. (2004). Reproductive biology of Cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*) in California, Cal-IPC.