



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Merremia (446)

Relates to: **Weeds**



Photo 1. Merremia, *Merremia peltata*, smother 6-10 m tall trees.



Photo 2. Merremia, *Merremia peltata*, as a ground cover at the margins of a forest.



Photo 3. Merremia, *Merremia peltata*, over wild hibiscus and pandanus, beside a road (Fiji).



Photo 4. Massive area of merremia, *Merremia peltata* (Fiji).



Photo 5. Merremia, *Merremia peltata*, leaves, showing the point of attachment on the underside.



Photo 6. Merremia, *Merremia peltata*, flower.



Photo 7. Merremia, *Merremia peltata*, flowers and seeds.

Summary

- Restricted. South and Southeast Asia, East Africa, North America (Canada), Oceania. In many Pacific islands.
- Important very fast-growing invasive weed dominating bush fallows and forests, becoming especially aggressive in disturbed

areas, smothering crops and logged forests, forming dense canopies stifling regrowth. One of top10 weeds of Solomon Islands, Vanuatu.

- Vines, smooth, woody at the base, up to 30 m long growing from underground tubers. Leaves, alternate along stems, almost round, up to 30 cm across, purple-veined below, with leaf stalk attached to lower surface. Flowers, funnel-shaped, white, 5-6 cm long. Seeds, furry, 1-4 inside a round capsule.
- Spread: by fast-growing vines; seed; stem pieces; on machinery; trade in ornamentals; and use as a ground cover.
- Biosecurity: high risk of introduction. On Global Invasive Species Database of alien invasive species (IUCN, 2020). Seed available on internet.
- Biocontrol: no information available.
- Cultural control: hand-pulling; slashing; mowing; allow cattle to eat it; reducing spacing in forest plantations to increase shade; vehicle hygiene to remove seed.
- Chemical control: in Australia (foliar): MCPA. Elsewhere (foliar): 2,4-D; dicamba; triclopyr; picloram; glyphosate (e.g., Fiji); triclopyr + picloram. For cut-vine application: triclopyr; glyphosate (e.g, Fiji).

Common Name

Merremia

Scientific Name

Merremia peltata. It is a member of the Convolvulaceae.

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Information from ¹Waterhouse DF, Norris KR (1987) *Biological Control Pacific Prospects*. Inkata Press, Melbourne; CABI (2019) *Merremia peltata*. Invasive Species Compendium. Invasive Species Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/33476>); and Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (2009) *Merremia peltata* (L.) Merr., Convolvulaceae. (http://www.hear.org/pier/species/merremia_peltata.htm); and from Global Invasive Species Database (2020) Species profile: *Merremia peltata*. (<http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=163>). Photo Paitia Nagalevu, SPC, Land Resources Division, Siva, Fiji.

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This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds*

The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.

