



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Sida (452)

Relates to: **Weeds**



Photo 1. Infestation of sida, *Sida acuta*.



Photo 2. Small thicket of sida, *Sida acuta*.



Photo 3. Leaves, buds, flowers of sida, *Sida acuta*.
Note the flowers arising from the fork of the leaves.



Photo 4. Leaves, buds, flowers of sida, *Sida acuta*.



Photo 5. Close-up of flower, sida, *Sida acuta*.



Photo 6. Close-up of flower, sida, *Sida acuta*.



Photo 7. Close-up of mature fruit of sida, *Sida acuta*.



Photo 8. Seeds of sida, *Sida acuta*. The seeds are inside these structures. The bristles or awns are shown.



Photo 9. *Calligrapha pantherina*, biocontrol beetle of sida, *Sida acuta*.

Summary

- Widespread. Asia, Africa, North, South and Central America, Caribbean, Europe (restricted), Oceania. In most Pacific countries.
- Aggressive weed, particularly invasive in pastures and woodland-grasslands, but also in plantations, including forestry, cereal, root and vegetable crops, lawns, along waterways, in waste land and roadside. Prolific seed production over many different soil types, especially where environments are seasonally wet or dry. Cattle avoid the weed.
- Erect, branched, perennial shrub, 30-100 cm tall, woody stem, and long, tough taproot. Leaves, spear-shaped, sawlike margins, alternate along stem, with hairy leaf stalks. Flowers, light yellow to orange, five petals, and many stamens. Fruit, brown, hard, containing 5-8 wedged-shaped parts, each with two stiff bristles, and a seed inside.
- Spread: seed; fur of animals; vehicles; clothing; water; and as contaminant of hay.
- Biosecurity: high risk of introduction; One of the worst 10 weeds in New Caledonia, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
- Biocontrol: introduction of *Calligrapha pantherina* - Australia, Fiji, PNG, Vanuatu.
- Cultural control: dig or grub out, or plough, disc, harrow (before seed set), and repeat, or cultivate, then sow dense grass and legume pasture; avoid over-grazing pasture (maintain healthy growth); vehicle hygiene to remove seed.
- Chemical control: in Australia (pre-emergence): imazethapyr; pendimethalin; or imazapic; (post-emergence): imazethapyr; 2,4-D; fluroxypyr; or dicamba. In Fiji, glyphosate.

Common Name

Sida; it is also known as spinyhead sida, broom weed.

Scientific Name

Sida acuta. It was known previously as *Sida acuta* subspecies *carpinifolia* and *Sida carpinifolia*. It is a member of the Malvaceae.

There are a number of *Sida* species, with *Sida rhombifolia* common in the region. It is recorded in all those countries listed for *Sida acuta*, plus Tokelau, and Wallis and Futuna.

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Adapted from Spinyhead weed (*Sida acuta*) (2018) Weeds of SE Qld and Northern NSW. Lucidcentral. (<https://www.lucidcentral.org/editors-pick-animal-and-plant-identification-keys/key-to-weeds-of-se-qld-and-northern-nsw>); and additional information from CABI (2019) *Ageratum conyzoides* (billy goat weed). Invasive Species Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/49985>). Photos 1-7 Sheldon Navie, Queensland, Australia.

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