



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Urena burr (468)

Relates to: **Weeds**



Photo 1. Thicket of urena burr, *Urena lobata*.



Photo 2. Leaves and flower, urena burr, *Urena lobata*.



Photo 3. Flower and prickly fruit, urena burr, *Urena lobata*.

Summary

- Widespread. Asia, Africa. North, South and Central America, Caribbean, Oceania. In most Pacific islands.
- Aggressive, invasive plant, fast-growing, capable of forming dense thickets. Able to grow in variety of soil types in forests, pastures, waste ground, swamps, waterways, roadsides, coastal dunes, plantations. Seeds easily spread.
- Erect, long-lived shrub, up to 2 m tall. Young stems green, with star-shaped hairs; older, woody. Leaves, alternate along the stems, up to 10 cm long. Lower leaves of variable shapes, uppermost smaller; all with toothed margins, pointed tips, and star-shaped hairs. Flowers, pink, 1.5-2 cm, single, with five reddish-pink petals, numerous stamens and branched style. Fruit, splits into five, 1-seeded segments, with hairs and spines.
- Spread: burrs, by animals; clothing; water; soil, produce, vehicles.
- Biosecurity: high risk of introductions on clothing. Noxious weed in Cuba, Fiji, USA.
- Biocontrol: little known.
- Cultural control: hand weeding; vehicle hygiene.
- Chemical control: in Australia: MCPA. In Fiji, glyphosate.

Common Name

Urena burr; it is also known as caesar weed, Chinese burr, Indian mallow, or Congo jute. CABI prefers caesar weed.

Scientific Name

Urena lobata. Another species, *Urena sinuata*, is considered to be the same as *Urena lobata* by some taxonomists. A member of the Malvaceae.

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Adapted from Urena burr (*Urena lobata*) (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) *Urena lobata* (caesar weed). Invasive Species Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/55771#tosummaryOfInvasiveness>). Photo 4 Gerald McCormak, Cook Islands Biodiversity & Natural Heritage. (<http://cookislands.bishopmuseum.org>).

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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.

