

Pacific Pests, Pathogens and Weeds - Online edition

Mile-a-Minute (466)

Summary

- Widespread. Asia, Africa. North, South and Central America, Caribbean, Oceania. In most Pacific islands.
- Fast-growing, branched, long-lived, climbing vine (up to 25 m); smothering plantations (coconut, forestry, oil palm, cocoa), vegetable crops (taro), and native species, producing much seed; regrowing from stem cuttings. Thrives in open, sunny, disturbed situations, but tolerates partial shade. Produces chemicals inhibiting growth of competitors.
- Stems, up to 6 m, slender, ribbed lengthwise, few or no hairs, producing roots from stem-leaf junction. Leaves smooth, heart-shaped, shallow to toothed margins, up to 13 cm long, with stalks opposite along stem. Flowerheads, white or greenish-white, flat-topped clusters; flowers, 3-5 mm long, with protruding stamens. Seeds, black, thin, flattened, with fine, whitish bristles.
- Spread: vegetative propagation of stem pieces; seeds, by wind, animals, machinery, floodwater; intentionally as ground cover or soil conservation.
- Biosecurity: high risk of introduction; in Australia, 'restricted invasive plants': *do not release into environment, give away or sell*. Among 100 of World's Worst Invasive Alien Species (IUCN, 2020).
- Biocontrol: Rust, *Puccinia spegazzinii*, introduced into PNG, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu. Psyllid, *Heteropsylla spinulosa*, released in Fiji, PNG, Samoa.
- Cultural control: hand weed, hoe or slash (but regrowth possible); plough; livestock (sheep, cattle) grazing; vehicle hygiene.
- Chemical control: in Australia: fluroxypyr; glyphosate; metsulfuron-methyl. Elsewhere, 2,4-D. In Fiji, glyphosate.

Common Name

Mile-a-minute; it is also known as mikania, mikania vine, or Chinese creeper. CABI prefers bitter vine.

Scientific Name

Mikania micrantha. Another species *Mikania cordata* is similar. Both are members of the Asteraceae.



Photo 1. Mile-a-minute, *Mikania micrantha*, smothering other plants and climbing up poles and wires.



Photo 2. Mile-a-minute, Mikania, *Mikania micrantha*, typically smothering other weeds, and scrambling into and over trees.



Photo 3. Mile-a-minute, *Mikania micrantha*, stem and leaves.



Photo 4. Mile-a-minute, *Mikania micrantha*, flowers.



Photo 5. Flowers showing the protruding stamens, mile-a-minute, *Mikania micrantha*.

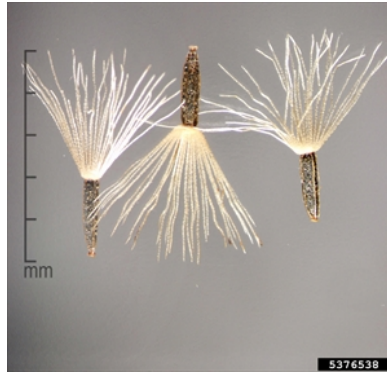


Photo 6. Mikania, *Mikania micrantha*, seed with parachute-like pappus attached.

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Adapted from Mikania vine (*Mikania micrantha*) (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) Mikania micrantha (bitter vine). Invasive Species Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/34095>); and *Mikania micrantha*. Waterhouse DF, Norris KR (1987) *Biological Control Pacific Prospects*. Inkata Press, Melbourne; and Mikania vine (*Mikania micrantha*) (2018) NSW Weedwise. Department of Primary Industries. NSW Government. (<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/MikaniaVine>); and from Mikania vine *Mikania micrantha* (2016) Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Photo 1 Andrew Derksen, USDA-APHIS, Bugwood.org. Photo 2-4 Dennis J. Giardina, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Bugwood.org. Photo 6 Julia Scher, Federal Noxious Weeds Disseminules, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org.

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