

Wedelia (447)

Summary

- Widespread. Africa, Asia, North, South and Central America, Caribbean, Europe, Oceania. In most Pacific islands.
- Important invasive, creeping, perennial weed of forests, forest margins, open woodlands, wetlands, roadsides, waste areas, and coastal vegetation, forming extensive, dense, ground cover, crowding out other species.
- Up to 70 cm tall; stems green, up to 2 m long, sometimes hairy. Leaves, three lobes (centre one larger), paired along stem, glossy, with saw-like margins, without leaf stalks. Flowerheads, bright yellow, daisy-like, borne singly off side branches, 20-30 mm across, each with 8-13 flowers at the margin, with yellowish petal-like leaves; smaller flowers at the centre.
- Spread: stems or stem fragments (moved in waste or flood water) that readily form roots; moved as an ornamental.
- Biosecurity: high risk of introduction. In Australia, 'restricted invasive plant': *do not release into environment, give away or sell*. Among 100 of World's Worst Invasive Alien Species (IUCN, 2020).
- Biocontrol: little known.
- Cultural control: hand-pulling; slashing; removing top few cm of soil.
- Chemical control: in Australia: glyphosate; metsulfuron-methyl (and Fiji); glyphosate + metsulfuron-methyl. Elsewhere: 2,4-D; dicamba; triclopyr.

Common Name

Wedelia; there are many other names: Bay Biscayne creeping-oxeye; creeping daisy; creeping wedelia; Singapore daisy; trailing daisy; or yellow dots.

Scientific Name

Sphagneticola trilobata. It was known previously as *Wedelia trilobata*. It is a member of the Asteraceae.



Photo 1. Large expanse of wedelia, *Sphagneticola trilobata*.



Photo 2. Large expanse of wedelia, *Sphagneticola trilobata*.



Photo 3. Wedelia, *Sphagneticola trilobata*, side of the road, south coast, Viti Levu, Fiji.



Photo 4. Wedelia, *Sphagneticola trilobata*, close-up of Photo 2, aside of the road, south coast, Viti Levu, Fiji.



Photo 5. Leaves and flowers of wedelia, *Sphagneticola trilobata*.



Photo 6. Close-up, flower of wedelia, *Sphagneticola trilobata*.



Photo 7. Close-up, flowerhead, wedelia, *Sphagneticola trilobata*. Note, there are two groups of flowers; the outer ones have yellow petal-like leaves. Those at the centre do not.

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Adapted from Singapore daisy (*Sphagneticola trilobata*) (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) *Sphagneticola trilobata* (wedelia). Invasive Species Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/56714>); and from *Sphagneticola trilobata* (2019) Wikipedia. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sphagneticola_trilobata). Photo 2 Forest & Kim Starr, Starr Environmental, Bugwood.org. Photo 5 Ronggy (2017) *Sphagneticola trilobata* in Singapore. Photo 6 Hans Hillewaert (2006) *Sphagneticola trilobata* (L). Pruski. Bay Biscayne Creeping-oxeye at Woodford Hill Beach, Dominica, W.I.

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