

Tickweed (513)

Summary

- Widespread. In Australia, and most Pacific island countries.
- Annual, often perennial, fast-growing, found in many soil types - woodlands, open forests, monsoon forests, grasslands, fallow land, wasteland, along roadsides. Mostly, weed of rice and sugarcane. Invasiveness assisted by seeds without dormancy and rapid reproduction.
- Stems up to 1.5m, hairy, sticky, possibly woody at base. Leaves, 3-5 oval leaflets, with long stalks, hairy, round or pointed at ends. Three to six flowers on unbranched stalks, up to 40cm, each with four rectangular to oval yellow petals (8-16mm long), and leaf-like sepals behind. Flowers open in mornings only. Fruits, hairy, sticky, ridged, up to 10cm.
- Spread: seeds dispersed by wind and water, on machinery/vehicles, livestock, clothes. Sent internationally and used in traditional medicines.
- Biosecurity: risk from sticky fruits easily moved on animals/people/vehicles. Declared noxious weed in USA. Seed is available for purchase on the Internet.
- Biocontrol: none.
- Cultural control: hand-weed; mulch (5-10cm) to prevent seedling growth; clean soil and seeds from machinery/vehicles; check clothing; prevent access to livestock.
- Chemical control: CABI - monolinuron, trifluralin, metribuzin, diuron, oxadiazon, chlorbromuron, atrazine, prometryne, terbutryne. Only metribuzin registered in EU. In Australia, first five registered. Other suggestions - 2,4-D, dicamba, MCPA, (registered in Australia and EU). In Fiji, glyphosate.



Photo 1. Leaf of tickweed, *Cleome viscosa*, with five leaflets,



Photo 2. Tickweed, *Cleome viscosa*, showing young flowers and fruits.



Photo 3. Mature flower and long fruit, tickweed, *Cleome viscosa*; note, the three-leafed sepals beneath, and the general hairiness.

Common Name

Tickweed; it is also known as Asian spider-flower, dog mustard, wild mustard, yellow cleome.

Scientific Name

Cleome viscosa. Previously, it was known as *Polanisia viscosa*. It is a member of the Cleomaceae, a family closely related to the Brassicaceae.

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Information from *Cleome viscosa* L. Atlas of living Australia. (<https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://id.biodiversity.org.au/node/apni/2892748#names>); and CABI (2021) *Cleome viscosa* (Asian spiderflower). Crop Protection Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/14045>); and *Cleome viscosa* (2021) Wikipedia. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleome_viscosa); and Unknown (2007) *Cleome viscosa*. Electronic flora of South Australia. Department of Land and Water, Government of South Australia. (http://flora.sa.gov.au/cgi-bin/speciesfacts_display.cgi?form=speciesfacts&name=Cleome_viscosa); and Fern K (2021) *Cleome viscosa* L. Tropical Plants Database. (<https://tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Cleome+viscosa>); and CSIRO (2020) *Cleome viscosa*. Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants. (https://apps.lucidcentral.org/rainforest/text/entities/cleome_viscosa.htm); and *Cleome viscosa* (PROTA) (2021) Pl@nt Use. ([https://uses.plantnet-project.org/en/Cleome_viscosa_\(PROTA\)](https://uses.plantnet-project.org/en/Cleome_viscosa_(PROTA))); and from CABI (2015) *Cleome viscosa* (Asian spiderflower). Invasive Species Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/14045>). Photo 1 Plague (2021) Flower buds and fruits of *Cleome viscosa*. (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cleome_viscosa_1.jpg). Photo 2 Kevin Thiele (2012) KRT4566. From Perth, Australia. ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cleome_viscosa_\(7596847412\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cleome_viscosa_(7596847412).jpg)). Photo 3 Plague (2021) Leaf of *Cleome viscosa*. (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cleome_viscosa_1ab.jpg).

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