

Impact Assessment Record

Scientific Name: *Cynoglossum creticum*

Common name: blue hound's tongue

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
<b>Social</b>			
Restrict human access?	'Although flowers have hooks, the plants only grow up to 600mm high' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Weed would have a minimal or negligible impact on human access.	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>
Reduce tourism?	Grows up to 600mm high and typically occurs on roadsides, pastures, grasslands. Plant also has hooks (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Visitor may be aware of weed but not bothered or activity not inhibited.	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>
Injurious to people?	'Flowers are covered in hooks' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). These hooks can attach to people at certain times of year.	<b>ML</b>	<b>M</b>
Damage to cultural sites?	Not likely to cause damage to cultural sites.	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>
<b>Abiotic</b>			
Impact flow?	Terrestrial species	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>
Impact water quality?	Terrestrial species	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>
Increase soil erosion?	Plant has long taproot. Although the plant dies off after flowering and may leave some of the ground exposed, (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003) low probability of large scale soil movement.	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>
Reduce biomass?	'It invades grasslands and suppresses native grasses' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Grows up to 600mm high so likely that biomass will increase.	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>
Change fire regime?	Plants die off after flowering. Invades grasslands and suppresses native grasses. Weed may have small or negligible effect on fire risk.	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>
<b>Community Habitat</b>			
Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC= Damp sands herb rich woodland (V); CMA=East Gippsland; Bioreg=East Gippsland Lowland; CLIMATE potential=VH. 'Invades grasslands and suppresses native grasses' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Minor displacement of some dominant species within the groundcover layer.	<b>ML</b>	<b>M</b>
(b) medium value EVC	EVC= Valley grassy forest (D); CMA=East Gippsland; Bioreg=East Gippsland Upland; CLIMATE potential=VH. 'Invades grasslands and suppresses native grasses' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Major displacement of some dominant species within the groundcover layer.	<b>MH</b>	<b>M</b>
(c) low value EVC	EVC= Coastal Banksia Woodland (LC); CMA=East Gippsland; Bioreg=East Gippsland Lowland; CLIMATE potential=VH. 'Invades grasslands and suppresses native grasses' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Minor displacement of some dominant species within the groundcover layer.	<b>ML</b>	<b>M</b>
Impact on structure?	'Invades grasslands and suppresses native grasses' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). When occurring in open areas where only one stratum present likely to have a minor effect on greater than 60% of the layers (MH). In open woodlands, likely to have a minor effect on 20-60% of the floral strata (ML). Therefore score as medium.	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>

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Effect on threatened flora?	This species is not documented as posing an additional risk to threatened flora.	<b>MH</b>	<b>L</b>
<b>Fauna</b>			
Effect on threatened fauna?	This species is not documented as posing an additional risk to threatened fauna.	<b>MH</b>	<b>L</b>
Effect on non-threatened fauna?	Weed is mostly a pasture weed so greatest impact on domesticated animals (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). 'Horses may be especially affected when restricted to small, infested area without other desirable forage' (Graham & Johnson 2003). Weed may have a minor effect on fauna spp.	<b>ML</b>	<b>M</b>
Benefits fauna?	Weed not documented to provide benefit to indigenous fauna.	<b>H</b>	<b>M</b>
Injurious to fauna?	Leaves are toxic to livestock. 'Plant has burrs that attach to cattle, causing irritation'. 'Leaves contain pyrrolizidine alkaloids that kill cattle and horses' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003).	<b>H</b>	<b>M</b>
<b>Pest Animal</b>			
Food source to pests?	Not known to be a food source to pests.	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>
Provides harbor?	Not known to provide harbour for pest spp.	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>			
Impact yield?	'Grazing and dairy farms throughout [humid temperate and subhumid zones of Australia] would potentially be affected by a loss of pasture and stock' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Potential to have a major impact on quantity of produce (5-20%).	<b>MH</b>	<b>M</b>
Impact quality?	<i>C. officinale</i> (a closely related species) also has prickly seeds which 'are very hard to remove after they cling to animals, thus lowering the wool value of sheep'. If the leaves of <i>C. creticum</i> are contained in hay or chopped forage, then possible that the cattle and horses will die if they eat it. Leaves have a serious toxicity effect (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Likely to have a major impact on quality of produce.	<b>MH</b>	<b>M</b>
Affect land value?	No evidence to suggest the weed will affect land value.	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>
Change land use?	Not known to cause a change in priority of land use.	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>
Increase harvest costs?	No evidence to suggest the weed will increase the cost of harvest.	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>
Disease host/vector?	Not a known host or vector for disease.	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>

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### References cited:

CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003, *Weed management guide: Blue hound's tongue (Cynoglossum creticum)*, CRC for Australian Weed Management and the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage, viewed 02 Dec 2005, [http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/wmg\\_blue\\_hounds\\_tongue.pdf](http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/wmg_blue_hounds_tongue.pdf)

Graham, J and Johnson, W.S. 2003, *Managing houndstongue*, University of Nevada, Cooperative Extension, viewed 03 Dec 2005, <http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/FS03/FS0349.pdf>

### Revisions

Date	Revised by	Revision
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