Scientific Name: *Cestrum parqui* Common name: Chilean cestrum

| QUESTION | COMMENTS | REFERENCE | RANKING |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Social** | | | |
| 1. Restrict human access? | An erect shrub 2 – 3 metres. It builds up large populations in moist habitats such as river flats, creekbanks and wetland edges. It has sometimes been planted as a hedge plant. High potential to block access to waterways. | Muyt (2001)<br>P & C (2001) | **H** |
| 2. Reduce tourism? | Due to its potential to build a large population in moist habitats, some associated recreational pursuits may be affected (e.g. swimming, boating, bird watching, etc) | Muyt (2001) | **MH** |
| 3. Injurious to people? | "Plant material is poisonous to animals and humans if chewed or swallowed. Some people may develop skin rashes from handling plants." | Muyt (2001) | **H** |
| 4. Damage to cultural sites? | In dense infestations it would present a moderate visual impact. Although the plant reproduces vegetatively and has an extensive root system, there is no evidence to indicate it could affect the structure of cultural sites. | Muyt (2001)<br>P & C (2001) | **ML** |
| **Abiotic** | | | |
| 5. Impact flow? | Although it invades creekbanks and wetland edges there is no indication it affects the flow of water. | | **L** |
| 6. Impact water quality? | Although it invades creekbanks and wetland edges there is no indication it affects water quality. | | **L** |
| 7. Increase soil erosion? | An evergreen shrub, it has an extensive though shallow root system. Unlikely to cause soil erosion. | P & C (2001) | **L** |
| 8. Reduce biomass? | "It forms extensive stands along disturbed edges and openings preventing growth and regeneration by indigenous plants." Infestations would increase biomass. | Muyt (2001) | **L** |
| 9. Change fire regime? | The plant does not create a fire hazard in natural ecosystems. Small or negligible effect on fire risk. | PIER [1] | **L** |
| **Community Habitat** | | | |
| 10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC | EVC=Alluvial terraces herb-rich woodland (E); CMA=Glenelg Hopkins; Bioreg=Victorian Volcanic Plain; VH CLIMATE potential. "The plant grows well on alluvial river flats often to the exclusion of most other vegetation." | P & C (2001) | **MH** |
| (b) medium value EVC | "Green cestrum builds up large populations in moist habitats such as river flats, creekbanks and wetland edges." Unlikely to occur in any medium value EVC in Victoria. | Muyt (2001) | **L** |
| (c) low value EVC | EVC=Montane damp forest (LC); CMA=West Gippsland; Bioreg=Highlands – Southern Fall; H CLIMATE potential. "Green cestrum builds up large populations in moist habitats…on disturbed edges and openings." CLIMATE potential distribution rating is HIGH in this EVC/CMA/bioregion; limited impact. Other EVCs less affected. | Muyt (2001) | **ML** |
| 11. Impact on structure? | "The plant grows well on alluvial river flats often to the exclusion of most other vegetation."<br>"It forms extensive stands along disturbed edges and openings preventing growth and regeneration by indigenous plants." | P & C (2001)<br>Muyt (2001) | **MH** |
| 12. Effect on threatened flora? | | | |

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|---|---|---|---|
| **Fauna** | | | |
| 13. Effect on threatened fauna? | | | |
| 14. Effect on non-threatened fauna? | "The plant grows vigorously when neglected and is toxic to animals including cattle, sheep, horses, pigs and poultry." Its ability to form dense stands, "preventing growth and regeneration by indigenous plants," and its toxic property suggests the plant would reduce the habitat of desirable species. | P & C (2001)<br>Muyt (2001) | **MH** |
| 15. Benefits fauna? | The dense stands may provide harbor for birds. Birds are known to eat the fruit. | P & C (2001) | **MH** |
| 16. Injurious to fauna? | "Plant material is toxic." | Muyt (2001) | **H** |
| **Pest Animal** | | | |
| 17. Food source to pests? | Birds are a known vector, but it is claimed the plant is toxic to birds and bees. | P & C (2001) | **ML** |
| 18. Provides harbor? | Dense stands may provide harbor for pest birds. | | **ML** |
| **Agriculture** | | | |
| 19. Impact yield? | "The plant prefers moist habitats such as river flats, creekbanks and wetland edges." However, animals are attracted to the plant and will graze it. Infested areas have to be fenced off to prevent stock losses. "In Auckland, New Zealand, stock losses have occurred in spite of attempts to restrict access to the plant." | P & C (2001) | **MH** |
| 20. Impact quality? | The plant takes several years to mature so would not become a weed of cropping. No seed contamination. Animals that eat the plant usually die; they do not end up in the food chain. | P & C (2001)<br>Muyt (2001) | **L** |
| 21. Affect land value? | The plant grows vigorously, and it reproduces sexually and vegetatively. It is difficult to control. Where it occurs in grazing land the value of the land would be affected. | Muyt (2001) | **M** |
| 22. Change land use? | In grazing situations stock losses can be minimised by fencing off infested areas. The land use would not be compromised. | P & C (2001) | **L** |
| 23. Increase harvest costs? | No | | **L** |
| 24. Disease host/vector? | None evident | PIER | **L** |

[1] Pacific Islands Ecosystems at Risk Project. 2001. Cestrum parqui.Available http://www.hear.org/pier/cepar-wra.htm Last accessed 30/03/03