Impact Assessment Record

Scientific Name: *Asystasia gangetica* ssp *micrantha* Common name: Chinese violet

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
Restrict human access?	'A perennial creeper .. grows up to 0.5m high alone but to 3m high on supporting vegetation'. Due to the preferred sites the weed grows 'on vacant residential land, along fencelines and in neglected garden beds' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003), it is likely to have only a minimal or negligible impact on human access.	**L**	**M**
Reduce tourism?	'Infestations have now been identified at .. Anna Bay and Fern Bay [NSW]. These infestations are spread over a distance of 9km and range in size from 2 square metres to several hectares' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Due to the smothering nature of the weed, it may have a minor effect on the aesthetics of the land.	**ML**	**M**
Injurious to people?	No toxic principle or physical properties likely to cause injury.	**L**	**MH**
Damage to cultural sites?	Not documented to occur in areas of cultural significance.	**L**	**MH**
Abiotic			
Impact flow?	Terrestrial species	**L**	**MH**
Impact water quality?	Terrestrial species	**L**	**MH**
Increase soil erosion?	'..makes a good ground cover, especially on slopes that need protection from erosion' (Whistler 2000 (cited in PIER 2005)). Unlikely to contribute to large scale soil movement.	**L**	**MH**
Reduce biomass?	'Smothers other ground plants and displaces vegetation' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Likely that biomass may increase.	**L**	**M**
Change fire regime?	Grows well in drought areas and the plant will die off (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). However no evidence to suggest that it would change the frequency or intensity of fire. Assume small or negligible effect on fire risk.	**L**	**M**
Community Habitat			
Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC= Coastal Banksia Woodland (V); CMA=Port Phillip; Bioreg=Gippsland Plain; CLIMATE potential=H. 'Can smother all vegetation in the herbaceous layer' (PIER 2005). Monoculture within the groundcover layer.	**H**	**MH**
(b) medium value EVC	No EVC found.	**M**	**L**
(c) low value EVC	EVC= Coastal tussock grassland (LC.); CMA=Port Phillip; Bioreg=Gippsland Plain; CLIMATE potential=H. 'Can smother all vegetation in the herbaceous layer' (PIER 2005). Monoculture within the groundcover layer.	**H**	**MH**
Impact on structure?	'Smothers other ground plants and displaces vegetation' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). 'Can smother all vegetation in the herbaceous layer' (PIER 2005). Would have a major effect on <60% of the floral strata.	**MH**	**MH**

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QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Effect on threatened flora?	The potential for *Asystasia gangetica* ssp. *micrantha* to establish and naturalise in Victoria is highly unlikely due to ecoclimatic limitations. No impact on threatened flora in Victoria.	**L**	**MH**
Fauna			
Effect on threatened fauna?	The potential for *Asystasia gangetica* ssp. *micrantha* to establish and naturalise in Victoria is highly unlikely due to ecoclimatic limitations. No impact on threatened fauna in Victoria.	**L**	**MH**
Effect on non-threatened fauna?	As an environmental weed, 'it smothers other ground plants and displaces vegetation, which reduces the availability of habitat for native plants and animals' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). May have a minor effect on fauna spp.	**ML**	**M**
Benefits fauna?	No evidence that the weed benefits indigenous fauna.	**H**	**MH**
Injurious to fauna?	Not known to be harmful.	**L**	**MH**
Pest Animal			
Food source to pests?	Not known as a food source to pest animals.	**L**	**MH**
Provides harbor?	Not known to provide harbour to pest spp.	**L**	**MH**
Agriculture			
Impact yield?	'It is a major weed overseas .. it infests plantations, particularly oil-palm crops, and competes effectively for soil nutrients, reducing productivity and increasing crop management costs' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Has the potential to have a minor impact on quantity of produce.	**ML**	**M**
Impact quality?	No evidence that the weed impacts on agricultural quality.	**L**	**MH**
Affect land value?	No evidence to suggest that the weed will affect land value.	**L**	**MH**
Change land use?	No evidence that the weed will cause a change in priority of land use.	**L**	**MH**
Increase harvest costs?	'It is a major weed overseas .. it infests plantations, particularly oil-palm crops, and competes effectively for soil nutrients, reducing productivity and increasing crop management costs' (CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003). Weed may lead to a minor increase in cost of harvesting.	**M**	**M**
Disease host/vector?	The weed provides host to minor disease (Asystasia gangetica mottle – potyvirus). Diagnostically susceptible host species include *Chenopodium amaranticolor, Nicotiana tabacum, Phaseolus vulgaris* and *Sesamum indicum* (VIDE 1996).	**M**	**MH**

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Common name: Chinese violet

References cited:

CRC for Australian Weed Management 2003, Weed Management guide: Chinese violet (Asystasia gangetica ssp. Micrantha), CRC for Australian Weed Management, viewed 25 Nov 2005, http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/wmg_chinese_violet.pdf

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Revisions

Date	Revised by	Revision