Impact Assessment Record

Scientific name: *Acer pseudoplatanus* L. Common name: Sycamore Maple

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	Sycamore maple is a tree species reported to occur in riparian habitats, which can form dense infestations (Weber 2003). Therefore it could form a major impediment in accessing waterways.	**H**	**MH**
2. Reduce tourism?	Unknown; The species is cultivated as an ornamental tree and can form dense infestations (Weber 2003). Therefore having the potential to affect aesthetics or restrict some activities; however there is no evidence of the species impacting upon recreation and tourism.	**M**	**L**
3. Injurious to people?	People have been reported to have allergic reactions to the species' pollen (Shah & Lin 2004).	**ML**	**H**
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Unknown; The species is cultivated as an ornamental tree and has an extensive root system (Muyt 2001). Therefore having the potential to affect aesthetics or damage infrastructure with its roots; there is no evidence however of this occurring.	**M**	**L**
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	The species is reported to invade riparian habitats (Muyt 2001). There is no evidence however of the species restricting flow.	**L**	**M**
6. Impact water quality?	The species is a deciduous tree that is reported to occur in riparian habitats (Muyt 2001). As a deciduous species alteration of seasonal light levels and changes to nutrient cycling could impact water quality, the impact this species has on water quality has not been reported however.	**M**	**L**
7. Increase soil erosion?	A large tree reported to have an extensive root system (Muyt 2001). Therefore there would be a low probability of the species being associated with large scale soil movement.	**L**	**MH**
8. Reduce biomass?	Sycamore maple can be a large tree, growing to 35m and forming dense infestations. It may displace certain species from the undergrowth by decreasing light levels and litter accumulation reducing diversity (Blood 2001; Weber 2003). It is not reported however to eliminate the undergrowth and therefore invasion by sycamore maple is likely to result in a direct replacement of biomass or possibly a net increase.	**ML**	**MH**
9. Change fire regime?	Reported to be extremely flammable during summer in Spain, but has a low Calorific power (Núñez-Regueira, Añón & Castiñeiras 1997). Unknown however how this will impact on the fire regime of Australian vegetation.	**M**	**L**
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC= Swampy Riparian Woodland (E); CMA= Corangamite; Bioreg= Otway Plain; VH CLIMATE potential. A tree species which is reported to form dense infestations, altering light levels displacing the majority of species and impeding regeneration (Weber 2003). Being a deciduous species its litter is reported to cause displacement of ground flora as it accumulates (Blood 2001). Therefore Sycamore maple is able to cause displacement within various layers.	**MH**	**MH**

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QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
(b) medium value EVC	EVC= Sedgy Riparian Woodland (D); CMA= Corangamite; Bioreg= Otway Plain; VH CLIMATE potential. A tree species which is reported to form dense infestations, altering light levels displacing the majority of species and impeding regeneration (Weber 2003). Being a deciduous species its litter is reported to cause displacement of ground flora as it accumulates (Blood 2001). Therefore Sycamore maple is able to cause displacement within various layers.	**MH**	**MH**
(c) low value EVC	EVC= Riparian Forest (LC); CMA= Corangamite; Bioreg= Otway Ranges; VH CLIMATE potential. A tree species which is reported to form dense infestations, altering light levels displacing the majority of species and impeding regeneration (Weber 2003). Being a deciduous species its litter is reported to cause displacement of ground flora as it accumulates (Blood 2001). Therefore Sycamore maple is able to cause displacement within various layers.	**MH**	**MH**
11. Impact on structure?	A tree species which is reported to form dense infestations, altering light levels displacing the majority of species and impeding regeneration (Weber 2003). Being a deciduous species its litter is reported to cause displacement of ground flora as it accumulates (Blood 2001). Therefore Sycamore maple is able to cause displacement within all layers.	**H**	**MH**
12. Effect on threatened flora?	Unknown; there is no evidence of this reported.	**MH**	**L**
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?	Unknown; there is no evidence of this reported.	**MH**	**L**
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	Significant alteration of habitat in terms of flora composition could have a significant impact on food supply for fauna species. The degree to which this species would impact on Australian fauna has not been quantified however.	**M**	**L**
15. Benefits fauna?	Has nectar bearing flowers (Blood 2001). The species could therefore provide some assistance in terms of food for insects or birds.	**MH**	**M**
16. Injurious to fauna?	There is no evidence of this reported.	**L**	**M**
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	The flowers are reported to be attractive to bees (Blood 2001).	**ML**	**MH**
18. Provides harbor?	A tree species of up to 35m which is reported to form dense infestations (Blood 2001; Weber 2003). It could therefore be capable of providing shelter to pest fauna; no specific species have been reported however.	**M**	**L**

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QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	Reported to naturalise in regenerating forest (Webb, Sykes & Garnock-Jones 1988). It is not reported however to impact on forestry operations and in Europe is itself a plantation timber (Brunet 2007). Therefore it is not reported as a pest of agriculture.	**L**	**MH**
20. Impact quality?	Reported to naturalise in regenerating forest (Webb, Sykes & Garnock-Jones 1988). It is not reported however to impact on forestry operations and in Europe is itself a plantation timber (Brunet 2007). Therefore it is not reported as a pest of agriculture.	**L**	**MH**
21. Affect land value?	Reported to naturalise in regenerating forest (Webb, Sykes & Garnock-Jones 1988). It is not reported however to impact on forestry operations and in Europe is itself a plantation timber (Brunet 2007). Therefore it is not reported as a pest of agriculture.	**L**	**MH**
22. Change land use?	Reported to naturalise in regenerating forest (Webb, Sykes & Garnock-Jones 1988). It is not reported however to impact on forestry operations and in Europe is itself a plantation timber (Brunet 2007). Therefore it is not reported as a pest of agriculture.	**L**	**MH**
23. Increase harvest costs?	Reported to naturalise in regenerating forest (Webb, Sykes & Garnock-Jones 1988). It is not reported however to impact on forestry operations and in Europe is itself a plantation timber (Brunet 2007). Therefore it is not reported as a pest of agriculture.	**L**	**MH**
24. Disease host/vector?	There is no evidence of this.	**L**	**M**