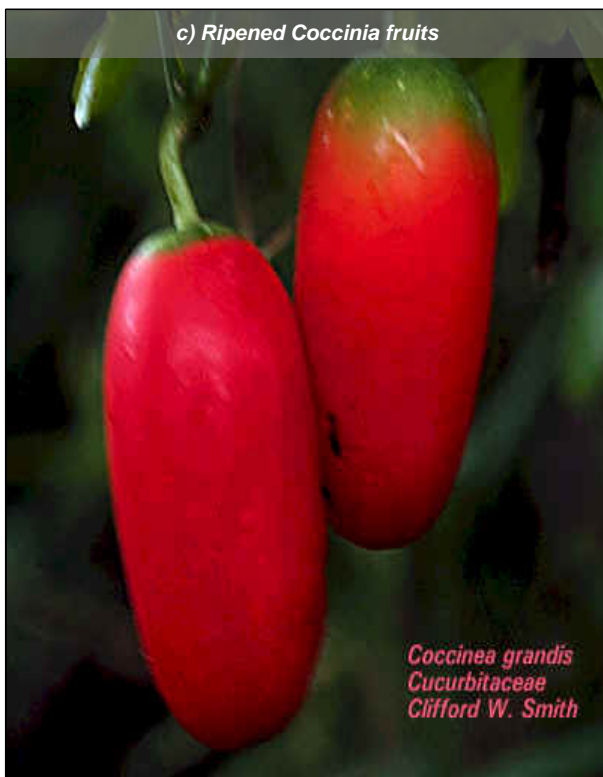
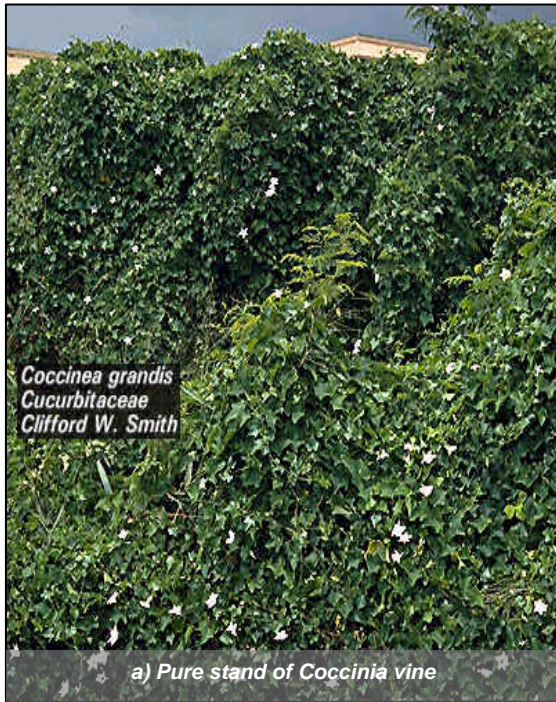


Ivy Gourd (*Coccinia grandis*)



- Scientific name & Code:** *Coccinia grandis* (L.) Voigt, COGR9
- Synonyms** – *Bryonia grandis* L., *Coccinia Cordifolia* auct. non (L.) Cogn., *Coccinia indica* Wright & Arn.
- Family:** Cucurbitaceae (cucumber family)
- Common names:** English – Ivy gourd, scarlet gourd, scarlet-fruited gourd
Chamorro – n/a
- Origin:** Africa, India, and Asia
- Description:** Dioecious (male and female on separate plants), perennial, herbaceous vine from a tuberous rootstock. Leaves alternate, simple, acute, 5-lobed, heart-shaped, hairless or scaly, with 3-8 glands near the base. Flowers usually solitary, in axils, trumpet-shaped, white, 3-5 cm long, with 5 recurved bracts below and deeply 5-lobed at end. Fruits are a smooth, bright red, ovoid berry, 2.5-6 cm long.
- Propagation:** Pieces of roots, stems, and vines can root and grow. Seeds are dispersed by birds and possibly feral pigs. The shoot tips are used in Asian cooking so human distribution is common.
- Distribution:** Introduced to many Pacific islands and Pacific Rim countries in the tropics. Identified on Saipan (intro from Thailand) and Guam where it is an aggressive invader.
- Habitat / Ecology:** Aggressive vine with an extensive tuberous root system. Invades disturbed ground, roadsides, tropical rainforests, and riparian areas. Infestation on Guam is only male plants, so it spreads by rooting of plant parts (no seed developed). Saipan has both male and female plants established.
- Environmental impact:** Very aggressive, smothering vine that overcomes shrubs and grows on trees. Forms a dense, sun-blocking canopy. Prolific seed producer (>1000/m²). Tolerates or benefits from mutilation, cultivation, or fire.
- Management:** Physical – Cutting has little effect. Collecting the fruits, drying and burning is marginally effective (used with chemical control on Maui – Triclopyr).
Chemical – Repeated applications of Triclopyr on mature vines and Glyphosate on young plants is necessary. Basal bark applications of 2,4-D and/or Triclopyr are effective but basal stems are hard to treat.
Biological – Control may be achieved with the use of three natural enemies, *Melittia oedipus* (Sessidae - moths), *Acythopeus cocciniae* (Curculionidae – true weevils), and *Acythopeus burkhartorum* (Curculionidae – true weevils). These natural enemies have been introduced to Hawaii from East Africa and are being cultured at the Quarantine Laboratory in Guam.

PIER Risk Assessment: High Risk, score: 21



Header: Societe Francaise d'Ethnopharmacologie : <http://www.ethnopharmacologia.org/>
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