



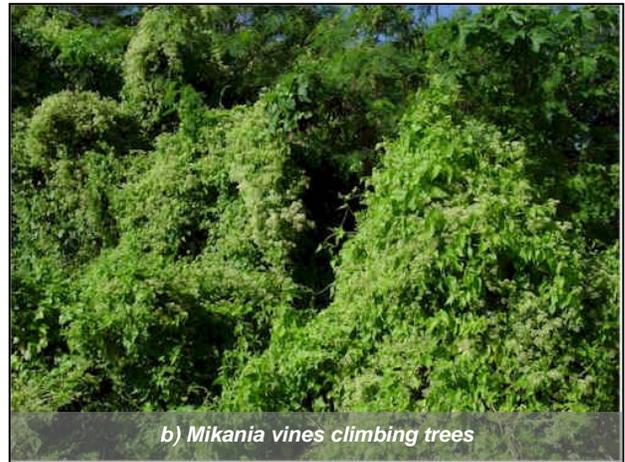
Mile-a-minute weed (*Mikania micrantha*)

- Scientific name & Code** *Mikania micrantha* Knuth., MIMI5
Synonyms - none
- Family:** Asteraceae – Aster Family
- Duration/Growth Habit:** Perennial Vine
- Common names:** English – mile-a-minute weed, bittervine, American rope, Chinese creeper, climbing hempweed, Mikania vine
- Origin:** Central and South America
- Description:** A branched, slender-stemmed vine. Leaves arranged in opposite pairs, heart-shaped or triangular 4-13cm long. Flowers 3-5 mm long, arranged in dense terminal or axillary corymbose panicles, white to greenish white. Seeds are black, 5-angled, 2 mm long with a pappus of white bristles.
- Propagation:** Prolific seed producer. Seeds dispersed by wind or in clothing or hair of animals. Reproduces vegetatively from broken stem fragments. Each node of the stem can produce roots.
- Distribution:** Identified in Hawaii, American Samoa, CNMI (Rota), Guam, Kosrae, Yap, Marshall Islands (Ralik Chain), Palau (main island group).
- Habitat/Ecology:** A fast growing creeping or twining plant found at elevations up to 2500 feet elevation. Invades disturbed forest, stream banks, roadsides, pastures, plantations, and cultivated crops. Grows best where fertility, organic matter, and soil and air humidities are high. Tolerates some shade.
- Environmental impact:** A scrambling or climbing vine capable of producing a dense tangled mat of trailing stems that can smother shrubs and small trees. Very rapidly invades and overgrows abandoned areas. Plant litter has an allelopathic effect that inhibits the growth of vegetation.
- Management:** Physical – Susceptible to chipping or cultivation in dry weather but vines root readily when left in contact with moist soil. Can be used as fodder for grazing animals.
Chemical – Probably susceptible to translocated herbicides including triclopyr, glyphosate, and 2,4-D applied before flowering, and contact herbicides including paraquat applied to seedlings. Established plants will probably recover from the base.
Biological – A rust fungus from South America (*Puccinia spegazzinii*) is being tested in India. A thrips (*Liothrips mikaniae*) has been released in Malaysia and the Solomon Islands but predation is believed to have prevented its establishment.

PIER Risk Assessment: High Risk, score: 25



a) Mikania flowers and leaves



b) Mikania vines climbing trees



c) Close-up of Mikania flowers



d) Mikania flowers and seeds



e) Mikania seeds (achenes) with bristles

Header: CSIRO-Australia Tropical Rainforest Plants

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For More Information:

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