



Creeping ox-eye (*Sphagneticola trilobata*)

- Scientific name & Code:** *Sphagneticola trilobata* (L.) Pruski, SPTR6
- Synonyms** – *Wedelia trilobata* (L.) Hitch., *Complaya trilobata* (L.) Strother, *Silphium trilobatum* L., *Thelechitonia trilobata* (L.) H. Rob. & Cuatrec.
- Family:** Asteraceae (sunflower family)
- Common names:** English – Creeping ox-eye, bay Biscayne creeping ox-eye, wedelia, Singapore daisy
Chamorro – n/a
- Origin:** Central America
- Description:** Creeping, matted, perennial herb. Stems to 1-4 dm long, rooting at the nodes. Flowering portions ascending, slightly hairy or not. Leaves fleshy, 4-9 cm long, 2-5 cm wide, irregularly toothed or serrate, usually with lateral lobes. Yellow to pale orange flowers above chaffy, rigid, lanceolate bracts about 1 cm long. Ray flowers 8-13 per head, 6-15 mm long; disk flowers numerous, 4-5 mm long with a pappus of short scales.
- Propagation:** Usually reproduces from vegetative parts. Stems and plant pieces form new plants where they touch the ground. Some mature seed development noted in some areas. Commonly spread by dumping garden waste.
- Distribution:** Tropical America. Identified on Rota, Saipan, and Guam.
- Habitat / Ecology:** Thrives in areas with well-drained, moist to wet soils, but can tolerate dry periods. Grows from sea level to 700 m in elevation.
- Environmental impact:** A noxious weed in agricultural areas, roadsides, waste areas, and disturbed sites. Invasive in riparian areas, along the borders of mangroves and rainforests, and in coastal strand vegetation. Forms a dense ground cover, crowding out other species.
- Management:** Physical – Not effective: plant parts can root easily in soil.
Chemical – Sensitive to Dicamba, 2,4-D and Triclopyr. Usually needs re-treatment and the removal of underground stems.
Biological –
- PIER Risk Assessment: High Risk, score: 13**



Photo a: P. Acevedo, Plant Image Collection - Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution

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Photos c & d: Pacific Ecosystems at Risk (PIER): www.hear.org/Pier/index.html

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