



1. Very long fruit capsules. 2. Thick and woody climbing stems. 3. In flower in Spring. 4. Dense infestation in the Fort Road Bushland Reserve in Brisbane.



VINE

Hairy Cat's Claw Creeper (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*)

Introduced

Class 3

Cat's Claw Creeper is a very widespread and common invasive vine in eastern Australia. However another form of Cat's Claw Creeper has become increasingly common amongst naturalised populations of this species in south-eastern Queensland. This plant is known as "Hairy Cat's Claw Creeper" or "Bat's Claw Creeper". While this plant has several differences (see overleaf), it is currently regarded to be a form of *Macfadyena unguis-cati*.

Distribution

Hairy Cat's Claw Creeper has been detected throughout South East Queensland, including several Brisbane suburbs (e.g. Mount Coot-tha, Corinda, Seventeen Mile Rocks and Goodna) and on the Gold Coast.

Why is it an Emerging Threat?

Hairy Cat's Claw Creeper causes similar problems to the typical form of Cat's Claw Creeper. Its aggressive growth can kill trees in the forest canopy and smother vegetation on the forest floor. Its underground tubers make it very difficult to control or eradicate from infested areas. However it has shown a propensity to invade different vegetation types and may become a serious weed of non-riparian vegetation.

Control

Similar control methods should be applied to those used for control of Cat's Claw Creeper. Successful methods include the removal of stems and upper portions of the plant to prevent seeding and further invasion of neighbouring species. This is usually performed in conjunction with the immediate application of herbicide to the freshly cut stems (i.e. cut and paint, cut and scrape or basal bark) or foliar application sometime afterwards when stems have had time to re-shoot. Foliar application alone can be successful where the specimen has a prostrate habit and there is no risk of off-target damage. Regular monitoring and follow-up treatments are important and highly recommended. Further information is available from a number of sources including http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/documents/Biosecurity_EnvironmentalPests/IPA-Cats-Claw-Creeper-139.pdf.

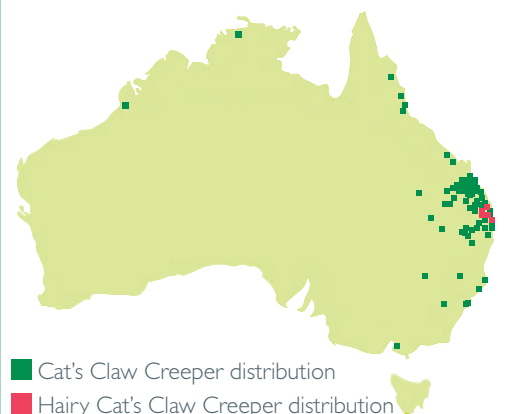
Herbicides used for the above methods include Fluroxypyr/Diesel or Fluroxypyr/Kerosene mixtures for stem application or Glyphosate for either stem/foliar application. While no chemicals are currently registered for the control of either form of Cat's Claw Creeper, the use of specific herbicides are permitted to control environmental weeds in non-crop situations within Queensland via the off-label permit 11463 (<http://permits.apvma.gov.au/PER11463.PDF>). Before applying this method of control within other state boundaries, it is recommended that all operators consult any relevant permits or government legislation.

Quick Facts

- > Climbing plant with underground tubers and thick woody stems.
- > Paired leaves with two or three leaflets, often also with claw-like tendrils.
- > Trumpet-shaped pale orange, orange-yellow or golden yellow flowers.
- > Long fruit capsules (60-100 cm long) containing numerous papery seeds.

Habitat

Hairy Cat's Claw Creeper often grows along roadsides or over fences and trees in suburban gardens. Like Cat's Claw Creeper, it is very invasive in vegetation along waterways (i.e. riparian vegetation). However, unlike Cat's Claw Creeper, it has also invaded open and closed forests away from waterways.



■ Cat's Claw Creeper distribution

■ Hairy Cat's Claw Creeper distribution

Comparison

Hairy Cat's Claw Creeper is currently regarded to be a form of *Macfadyena unguis-cati*. However this plant has several differences from the widely known Cat's Claw Creeper. The following will assist in distinguishing Hairy Cat's Claw Creeper from Cat's Claw Creeper.

Hairy Cat's Claw Creeper



Adult plant with larger leaves.



Leaves with larger and broader leaflets, often with toothed margins.



Stems, leaf stalks, leaf undersides and claw-like tendrils are covered in fine hair.

Cat's Claw Creeper



Adult plant with smaller leaves.



Leaves with smaller and narrower leaflets, usually with wavy margins.

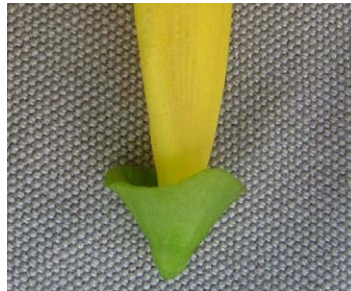


All parts of plant are generally hairless.

Hairy Cat's Claw Creeper



Flowers are usually pale orange to pale orange-yellow in colour.



Flower calyx is funnel-shaped, with a narrow base and spreading top



Very long fruit capsules (60-100 cm long). Immature fruit is dull and olive green in colour.

Cat's Claw Creeper



Flowers are usually bright yellow to pale yellow in colour.



Flower calyx is cup-shaped, with a rounded base.



Long fruit capsules (30-60 cm long). Immature fruit is light green and glossy.

The control methods referred to in Weed Watch™ should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the utilisation of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, Technigro does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

This information has been developed with the assistance of Dr Sheldon Navie. Photographs are also courtesy of Dr Navie. © Technigro Australia Pty Ltd 2010

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