

1. Climbing habit. 2. Close-up of bright yellow flower. 3. Slender coiled stems. 4. Paired leaves with hairy margins.



Brazilian glory vine (*Stigmaphyllon ciliatum*)

Introduced

Not Declared

Like many other emerging weeds, Brazilian glory vine is beginning to spread from cultivation and become a weed of bushland in coastal Queensland. This member of the Malpigiaceae plant family is also known as orchid vine, butterfly vine, glory vine, or Amazon vine. It is native to Central and South America.

Distribution

This plant is cultivated as an ornamental in tropical and sub-tropical gardens because of its showy yellow flowers. In recent years, it has been reported becoming naturalised in the Mossman and Burnett River areas in coastal Queensland. In early 2010, an infestation was discovered in the margins of Toohey Forest Conservation Park in south-eastern Brisbane.

Description

This scrambling or climbing vine grows up to 8 m in height. The younger stems are slender and sparsely hairy but quickly become hairless. They are sometimes coiled and may occasionally be mistaken for tendrils. The leaves are oppositely arranged along the stems and are heart or egg-shaped in outline (4 - 9.5 cm long and 3.5 - 7.5 cm wide). These leaves have pointed tips and their margins are fringed with hairs up to 5.5 mm long. They are borne on stalks 1.5 - 5 cm long and have a pair of stalkless glands near the base of each leaf blade.

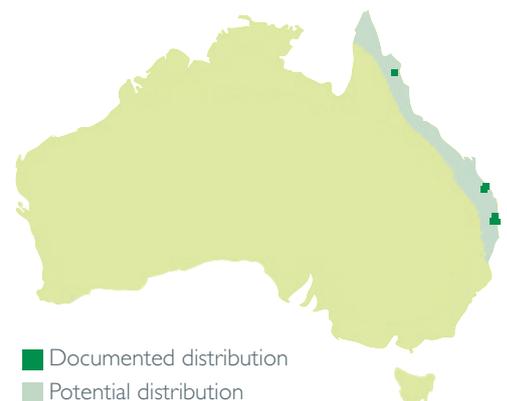
The flowers are arranged in small clusters of 3 - 8 and are borne on stalks 6 - 13 mm long that spread outwards from the same point. Each flower has five bright yellow petals (11.5 - 22 mm long), five small sepals and ten yellow stamens. The petals have very narrow bases and broad rounded tips and their margins are finely fringed (i.e. fimbriate). The fruit has a small hard nut in the centre (7.5 - 9 mm wide) and is surrounded by a broad papery wing (2 - 2.5 cm long).

Quick Facts

- > A vine with slender stems and paired leaves.
- > Leaves have hairy margins and a pair of small glands at their bases.
- > Flowers with five yellow petals that have fringed margins.
- > Fruit have a large papery wing.

Habitat

In its natural range, this species is mainly restricted to coastal regions. It is usually found in wetter habitats (i.e. along waterways, amongst mangroves, or in freshwater swamps), but also grows on or near beaches, on forest margins, or along roadsides.





1. Infestation in the understory of Toohy Forest. 2. Close-up of leaf underside showing pair of tiny glands.

Reproduction and Dispersal

Flowers and fruit may be produced throughout the year in warmer environments. The fruit, with their large papery wings, may be easily dispersed by wind movement or float on water. Vegetative or reproductive material may also be spread in dumped garden waste.

Why is it an Emerging Threat?

Brazilian golden vine has shown the capacity to form a very dense cover in the understory and lower canopy levels of native open forests in south-eastern Queensland. It also has the potential to invade riparian vegetation where it could replace native species and prevent their recruitment.

Control Methods

Small or immature specimens may be removed manually, especially in soft and moist soil conditions, however care must be taken to ensure none of the root system is left behind. All plant material should be bagged and disposed of properly (i.e. not into green waste). Foliar application of herbicides may also be suitable for small plants where off-target damage is of low risk. Selective control may also be obtained through foliar application of broadleaf herbicides in grassy understoreys or other suitable environments where vines are not entangled with other desirable broadleaf species.

For mature specimens, remove the upper foliage where practical to prevent further development of flowers and reproductive plant parts. Once again, all plant material should be collected and removed from the site. Apply herbicides to remaining stem material using methods of application such as 'cut and paint' or 'basal barking'. These methods are recommended where there is the risk of damage to desirable species and also the surrounding environment. Research suggests that Brazilian Glory Vine is susceptible to herbicides however there are no specifically registered products for its control. Included in the range of products likely to provide suitable control are Glyphosate, Picloram, Triclopyr and Dicamba. In Queensland, these herbicides as well as others can be used to control environmental weeds such as Brazilian Glory Vine via the APVMA off-label permit no. 11463 (<http://permits.apvma.gov.au/PER11463.PDF>). Before applying these methods of control within other state boundaries, it is recommended that you consult any relevant permits or government legislation.

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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Look a-likes

The distinctive yellow flowers with fringed petals and the hairy leaf margins make this species quite easy to distinguish from most other vines. Shower of gold climber (*Tristellateia australasiae*) from northern Queensland and the introduced weed Hiptage (*Hiptage benghalensis*) are both woody climbers with hairless leaf margins.



Top. White hiptage flowers with yellow markings.

Bottom. Shower of gold climber (Photo courtesy of Forest & Kim Starr)