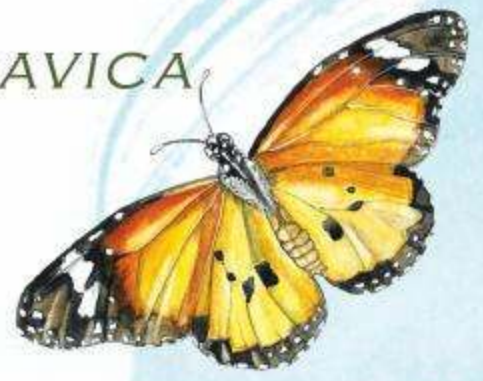


SPECIES: *ASCLEPIAS CURASSAVICA*

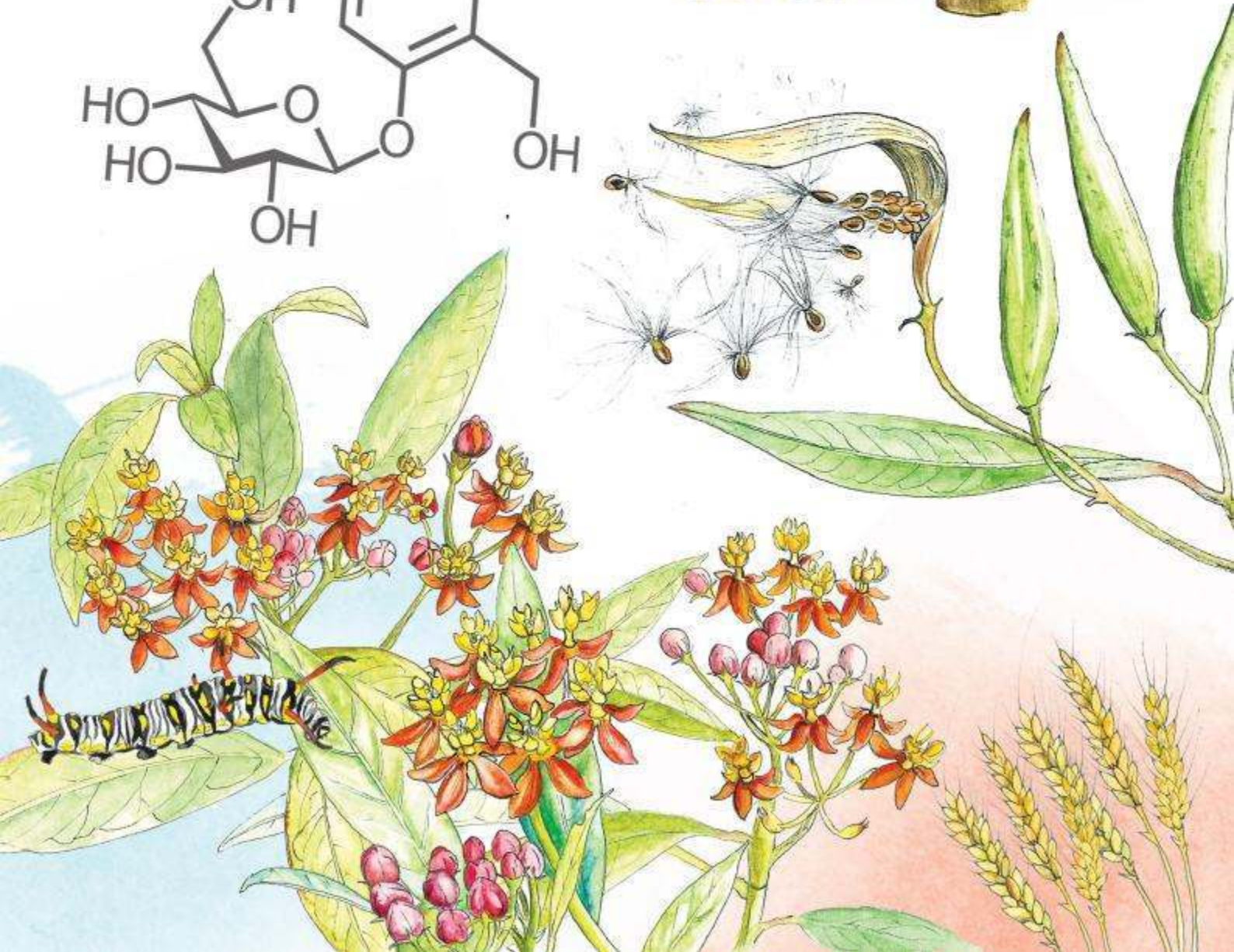
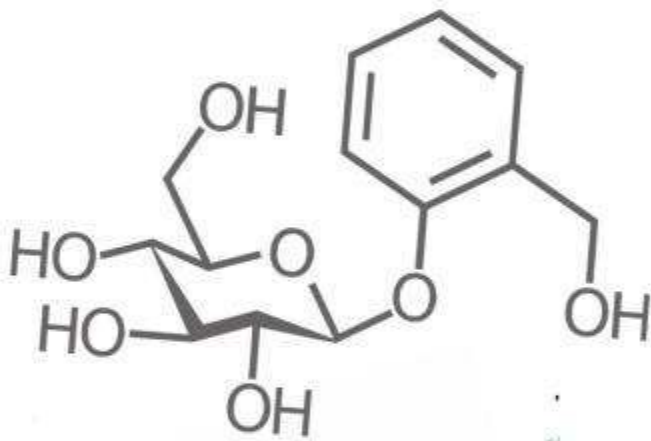
COMMON NAME: SCARLET MILKWEED

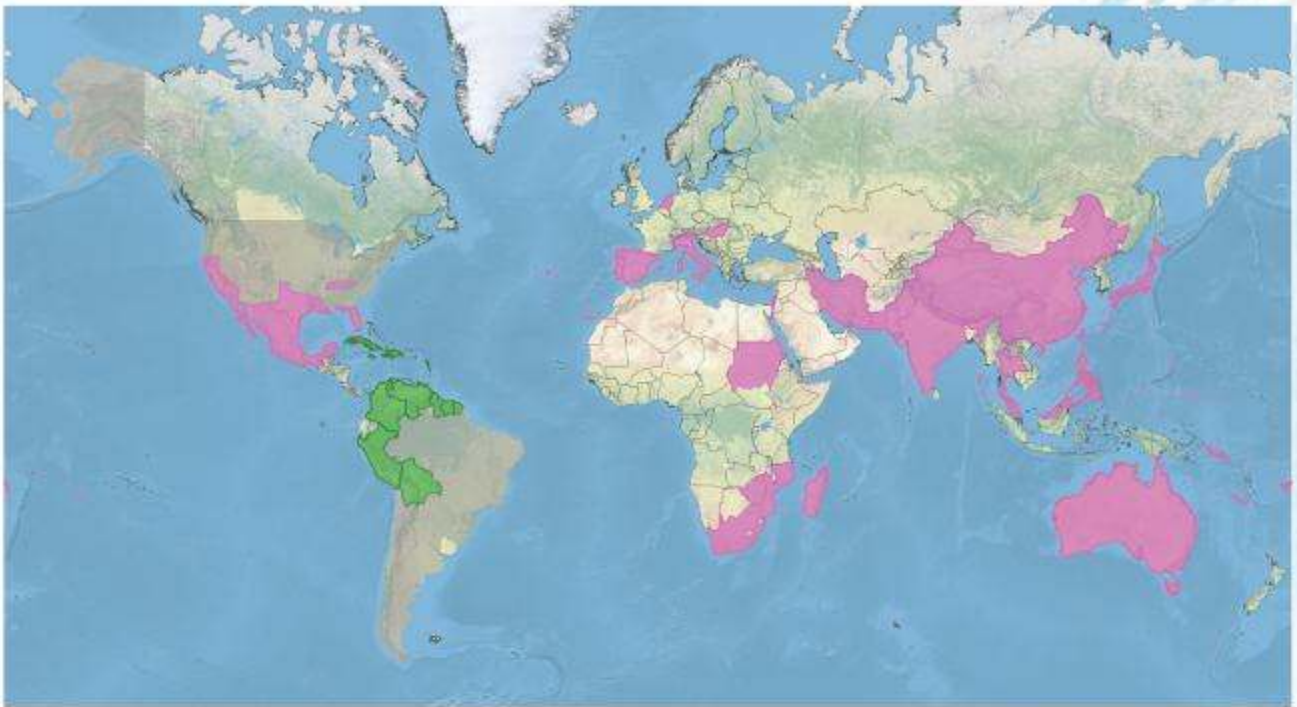
FAMILY: ASCLEPIADACEAE



Plant Description

It is a perennial herb that grows to a height of 1 m. Young stems may be hairy, but become smooth and dull green with age. It produces white latex when damaged from any part. It has narrowly elliptical leaves (6-15 cm long, 1-3 cm wide) arranged oppositely. It has an umbelliform inflorescence (with a number of short flower stalks that emerge from a common point) having up to 12 flowers that are bright red or orange with yellow centres. Fruits are formed in pairs of spindle-shaped follicles, 6-7 cm long. The light green seed pods split lengthways to release small, flattened, winged seeds that bear silky hairs. Seeds are dispersed mostly by wind.





CABI, 2022. *Asclepias curassavica*. In: Invasive Species Compendium. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/7248#toDistributionMaps> [accessed: 25/01/2022]

Introduced
Native
Origin not recorded

***Asclepias curassavica* ASCLEPIADACEAE**

Origin: Tropical America

Introduction: It has been introduced as an ornamental plant to many parts of the world, and it was most likely bought to India for the same reason. We do know the year of introduction.

Impacts: The plant grows along roadsides, but can also invade wetlands, evergreen, semi-evergreen, and mixed deciduous forests. It also grows in agriculture landscapes and decreases crop and pasture productivity. The leaves of the plant, if eaten by pets, are poisonous due to high levels of glycosides. The latex, like the leaves, is toxic—it can cause dermatitis on contact, or poisoning, if ingested. In traditional medicine practices, root of the plant is used for curing piles, leukoderma and the juice of the leaf is used for treating haemorrhages while the flower is used in treating wounds and sores. Used as host plant by striped tiger (*Danaus genutia*) and plain tiger (*Danaus chrysippus*) butterflies.

Management: No effective management methods are known to control *A. curassavica*. Uprooting by hand is generally practiced.

