

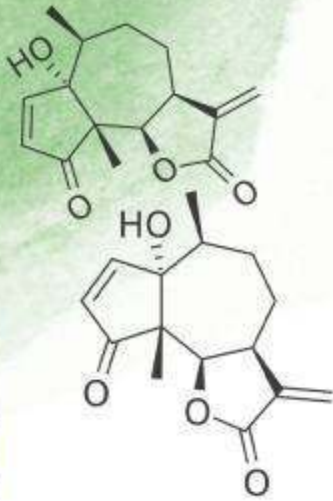
SPECIES: *BIDENS PILOSA*

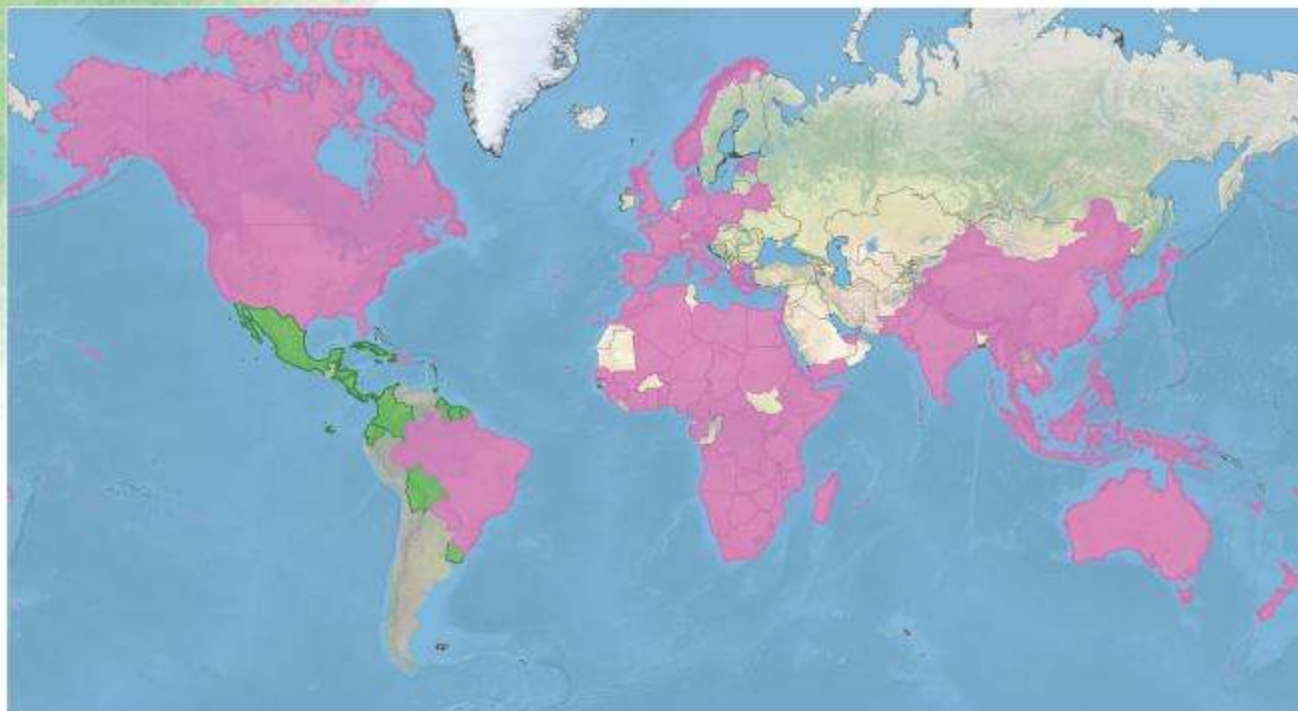
COMMON NAME: BEGGAR'S TICK

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

Plant Description

It is an annual herb that can grow to a height of 60-90 cm. Stems are reddish. The leaves are arranged in opposite pairs. The simple leaves are deeply divided, typically into 3 lobes (though occasionally leaves can be 5-lobed), and the leaf margin is serrated. Flowering is from October to April. Flowers are daisy-like, with a yellow centre surrounded by 5-6 white 'petals'. A single plant can produce up to 6000 seeds per year. The seeds are widely dispersed by wind and water, and can also attach themselves to people's clothes or animal fur. It germinates readily in open, disturbed sites, and following soil tillage.





CABI, 2022. *Bidens pilosa*. In: Invasive Species Compendium. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/9148#toDistributionMaps> [accessed:25/01/2022]

■ Introduced
■ Native
■ Origin not recorded

***Bidens pilosa* ASTERACEAE**

Origin: South America

Introduction: Unknown

Impacts: The plant can rapidly grow into dense thickets outcompeting crops and in some countries it has been reported to be a serious agricultural weed, reducing crop yield. It also shows allelopathic effects that can negatively affect neighbouring plants. Thickets of the plant can be seen along roads and railway tracks. There are reports of the plant being used as a medicine in Mizoram against rheumatoid arthritis, bacterial infections and malaria.

Management: Parthenin from *Parthenium hysterophorus* is shown to have an inhibitory effect on growth and development of *B. pilosa* and it can potentially be used as a herbicide. Other herbicides such as diuron, bromacil, 2,4-D have been used in some countries. Mechanical removal by hand-weeding, or mowing to prevent flowering and seed production can be effective in controlling the species.

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