

SPECIES: *MIKANIA MICRANTHA*

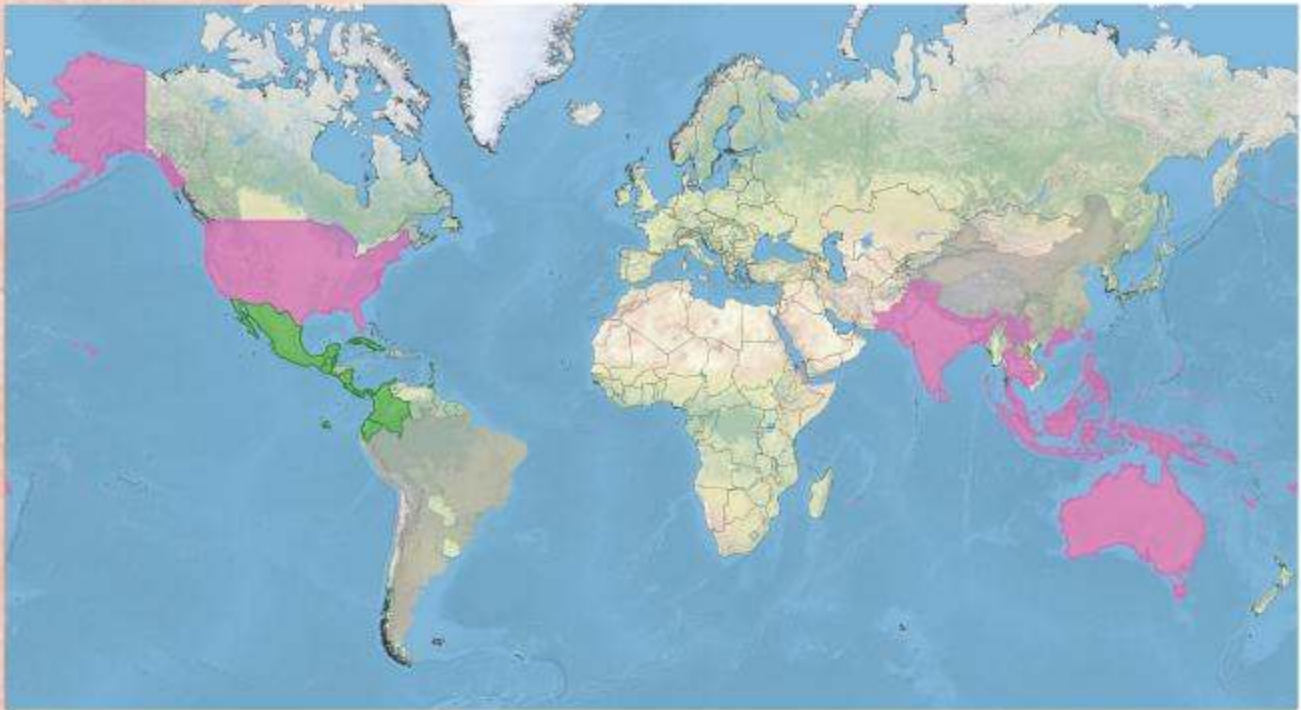
COMMON NAME: BITTER VINE / CLIMBING HEMP VINE /
MILE-A-MINUTE WEED

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

Plant Description

A fast growing climbing plant found up to 800 masl in moist tropical regions. The small greenish-white flowers are arranged in clusters; seeds are black in colour and five-angled with white hairy structures. The heart-shaped leaves are arranged in opposite pairs along slender branched stems. Mostly found along roadsides, stream banks, fallow and cultivated farms, the plant is visible in disturbed forests as well. It is often seen blanketing other vegetation, including trees.





Source: CABI, 2022. *Mikania micrantha*. In: Invasive Species Compendium. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/34095#toDistributionMaps> [accessed: 25/01/2022]

■ Introduced
■ Native
■ Origin not recorded

***Mikania micrantha* ASTERACEAE**

Origin: Central and South America

Introduction: The plant was introduced to India originally as a ground cover for tea plantations. Some accounts also mention that it was introduced during World War II in order to camouflage airfields.

Impacts: The vine grows rapidly and smothers and suppresses native vegetation. The habitat of the one-horned rhinoceros has reduced and degraded considerably owing to the spread of *M. micrantha*. Reduction in yield of many horticultural and plantation food crops is also linked to invasion by *M. micrantha*.

Management: Manual removal of the plant has been the most effective method while biological control with a rust fungus (*Puccinia spegazzinii*) has also been proven successful.