

Madeira vine

Anredera cordifolia

January 2015

Madeira vine is a vigorous climber with fleshy, heart-shaped leaves and aerial and underground tubers.

As a Weed of National Significance, Madeira vine is declared under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, with prohibition on its sale throughout South Australia.

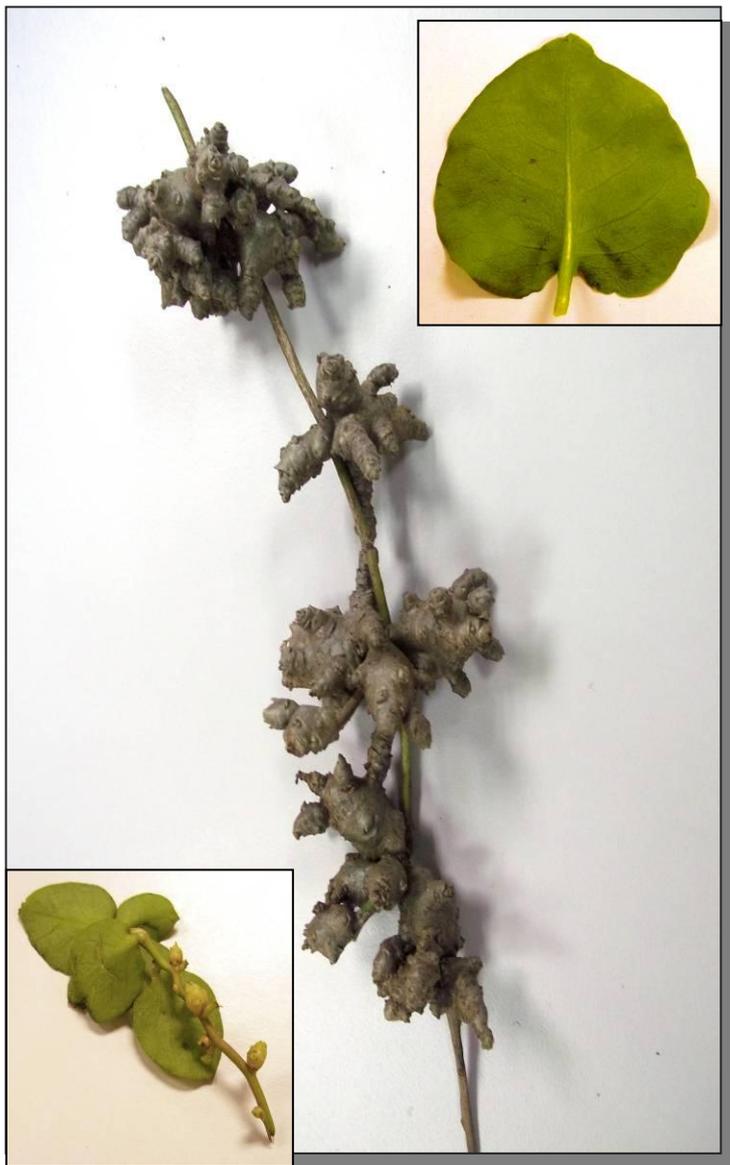
- **Other common names:** binahong, dheng san chi, luo kui shu, lamb's tail, jalap, mignonette vine.
- **Family:** Basellaceae
- **Synonyms:** *Boussingaultia cordifolia*, *B. gracilis*, *B. cordata*.
- **Origin:** South America.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Madeira vine is a vigorous climber, growing high into trees and over vegetation. In warm, high rainfall areas, its spread can be 6-10 m in a growing season.

- outcompetes and smothers native vegetation with its dense, heavy foliage
- suspected of toxicity to cattle
- very difficult to control due to regeneration from tubers
- smothers riparian vegetation and can destabilise river banks in floods





For more information

Contact your local Natural Resources Centre for information on controlling declared weeds:

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au

Further weed control information is also available at:

www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa

DESCRIPTION

Habit: perennial, rhizomatous vine, extending many metres in favourable conditions. **Leaves:** heart-shaped, fleshy, waxy, mid green with wavy margins, up to 8 cm x 5.5 cm. **Aerial tubers:** warty, green or grey-brown, tubers 0.5-25 cm long form in leaf axils along the slender, twining stems. They look like root ginger. **Underground tubers:** potato-like appearance and grow to 20 cm wide and up to 1 m deep in the soil. **Flowers:** weeping inflorescence 6-65 cm long contains numerous, small, greenish-white to creamy-white flowers *Flowering time:* late summer – early autumn.

HOW IT SPREADS

Madeira vine reproduces vegetatively from the aerial tubers that break off readily and shoot when they touch the soil. The underground (subterranean) tubers also remain viable for several years. It can also grow from severed stems and leaves. Tubers are transported by soil and water movement, but the main long distance vectors are dumping of garden waste and machinery movement.

HABITAT

Madeira vine is a major environmental weed in high-rainfall, sub-tropical and tropical regions of eastern Australia. In South Australia it is a garden escape in moist gullies, along waterways, and other disturbed bushland sites close to settlement.

DISTRIBUTION

Madeira vine is a local garden escape in the Southern Lofty and South East regions. It is also naturalised in Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Select alternatives to replace invasive garden plants. Read 'Grow Me Instead' for suggestions. Further information is at www.weeds.org.au/WoNS.

Images. Previous page - Courtesy of David Blewett. This page: Julie Dean.

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