

Gymnocoronis spilanthoides

Nomenclature:

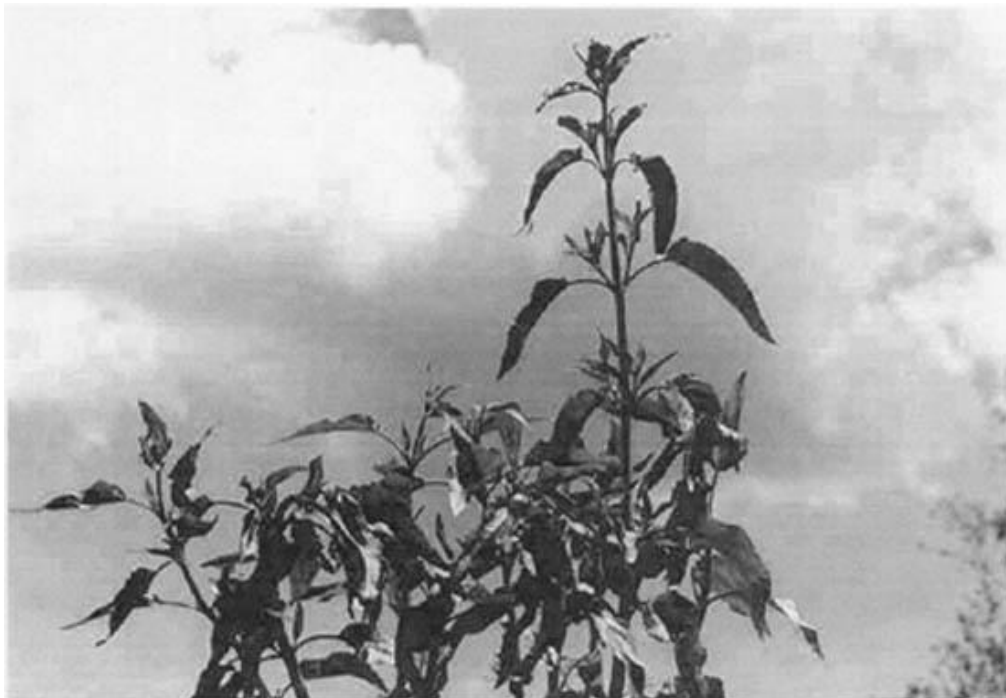
Family: Asteraceae Dumortier (Compositae Giseke)

Species: *Gymnocoronis spilanthoides* (D.Don) DC.

Common Names: Senegal tea (Australia); temple plant (Australia); costata (Australia)

Bayer Code: GYNP

Description: A freshwater or marsh-growing emergent perennial herb which forms rounded bushes or, extending from the banks, mats of tangled stems, reproducing vegetatively and by seed. Stems: pale green, erect at first but becoming prostrate, scrambling and branching at the nodes, 1 to 1.5 m long, 5 to 10 mm diameter at first increasing to 1 to 2 cm with age; internodes hollow, inflated and buoyant. Leaves dark green; opposite, ovate to lanceolate, 5 to 20 cm long, 2.5 to 5 cm wide, on shortish stalks, margins serrate and slightly wavy. Flowers: florets whitish, numerous, grouped into terminal heads 1.5 to 2 cm diameter, subtended by a single row of green involucre bracts. Seed yellow-brown, 5 mm diameter, ribbed, without a crown or pappus. Roots; numerous, finely fibrous adventitious roots developing from the nodes (Parsons and Cuthbertson, 1992).



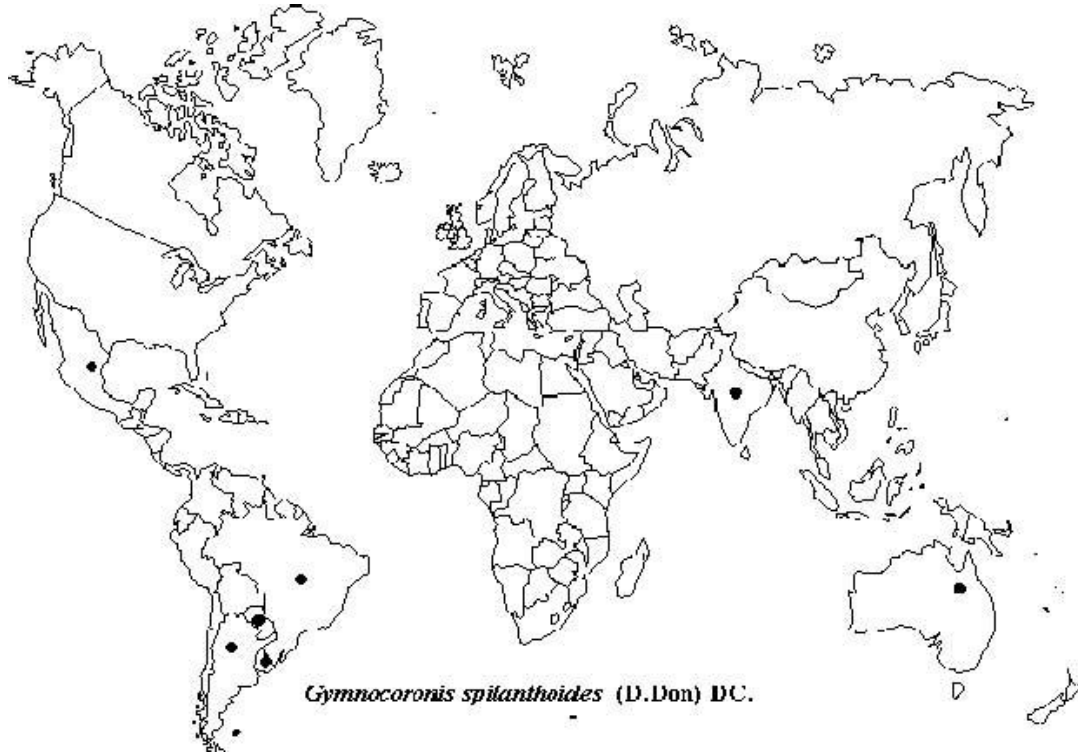
Gymnocoronis spilanthoides
BOPRC, 2001

Distribution:

Listed as a “principal” weed in Argentina (Holm *et al.*, 1979)

Native of tropical and sub-tropical America from Mexico to Argentina, India, Australia (Parsons and Cuthbertson, 1992)

Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay (GRIN, 2001).



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Biology and Ecology: *Gymnocoronis spilanthoides* is recorded by Holm *et al.* (1979) as a “principal” weed of Argentina. It is also listed as a noxious, prohibited weed in both Australia (Australia, 2000) and New Zealand. Risk assessment according to the Australian system gave a score of 7 (PIER, 2001). Csurhes and Edwards (1998) record that it is in the aquatic plant trade in Australia and predict that it could become a significant weed of sub-tropical and tropical wetlands. Parsons and Cuthbertson (1992) comment that *G. spilanthoides* is an extremely hardy plant with a growth rate exceeding 15 cm per week in fertile situations. The long branching stems produce a tangled web of vegetative material that quickly grows out from the bank, covering the water surface. In so doing it impedes water flow, navigation and recreation. It has no value as livestock feed. This species would appear to have potential to be a serious aquatic weed in tropical and sub-tropical regions of the United States. Its presence in Mexico and its availability in the plant trade are of particular concern.

References:

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- Csurhes, S., and R. Edwards. 1998. Potential Environmental Weeds in Australia. Candidate Species for Preventative Control. Environment Australia, Canberra, ACT
- Holm, L. G., J. V. Pancho, J. P. Herberger, and D. L. Plucknett. 1979. A Geographical Atlas of World Weeds. John Wiley and Sons, New York. 391 pp.
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