Wikstroemia indica

Family: Thymelaeaceae

Species: *Wikstroemia indica* (L.) C. A. Mey.

Common Names: Indian stringbush; tiebush (Australia)

Synonyms:
Daphne indica L..
Daphne cannabina Lour.
Daphne viridiflora Wall.
Wikstroemia viridiflora Meisn.
Wikstroemia valbrayi H. Lév.
Capura purpurata L.

Bayer Code: WIKIN

Description: A shrub growing 1-2 m or more tall. Branches reddish brown, glabrous. Leaves opposite; petiole ca. 1 mm; leaf blade reddish brown on both surfaces when dried, obovate, elliptic-oblong, or lanceolate, 2-5 × 1-2 cm, papery to thinly leathery, both surfaces glabrous, base broadly or narrowly cuneate, apex obtuse or acute; lateral veins dense, slender, at narrow angle to midrib. Inflorescences terminal, capitate, several flowered; peduncle 1 cm, glabrous. Pedicel 1-2 mm. Calyx yellowish green, 7-12 mm, exterior glabrescent; lobes 4, broadly ovate to oblong, ca. 3 mm, apex acute or obtuse. Stamens 8. Disk scales often 2 or 4. Ovary obovoid or ellipsoid, glabrous or apex sparsely pubescent; style very short; stigma capitate (MOBOT, 2009).

Figure 1. *Wikstroemia indica* flowering from Fagg (2002)

Distribution: *Wikstroemia indica* is native in China, Taiwan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Australia. It has naturalized in Mauritius and Rodrigues Island (NGRP, 2002; Lorence and Sussman, 1988, Kell, 1997).

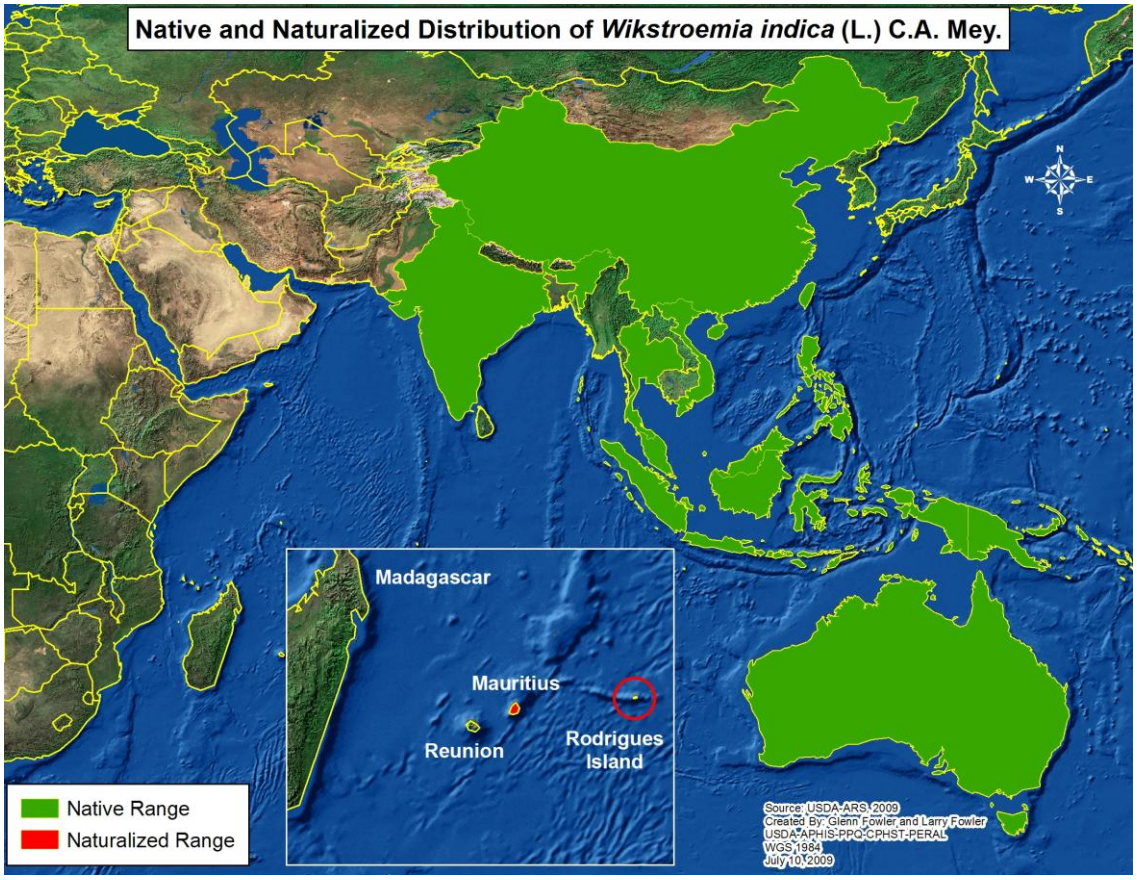

Figure 2. By Glenn Fowler, USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST, 2002 (Fowler, 2002)

Biology and Ecology: *Wikstroemia indica* is a shrub growing 1-2 m or more tall. The fruit (drupe) is red to dark purple, ellipsoid, 7-8 mm. Flowering and fruiting occurs from summer to autumn. It is a widespread and variable, apomictic species. In China, it occurs in forests and rocky shrubby slopes below 1500 m.

Possible Pathways to the United States: *Wikstroemia indica* could potentially be introduced into our ecosystems because the plant is recognized for its medicinal properties.

Adverse Impact: *Wikstroemia indica* has proved invasive in natural forest situations on the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues in the Indian Ocean (Lorence and Sussman, 1988; Kell, 1997) and is rated by Binggeli et al. (1998) as "highly invasive." It is toxic to mammals and poses a threat to people and livestock. While mainly tropical in distribution, *Wikstroemia indica* also occurs in subtropical Australia and China and is a potential threat to warmer regions of the United States.

Literature Cited:

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Lorence, D. H., and R. W. Sussman. 1988. Diversity, density, and invasion in a Mauritian wet forest. Monographs of the Systematics of the Missouri Botanical Garden 25:187-204.

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