

Assessment of Non-native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas

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Assessment date: 9 March 2015

Dolichandra unguis-cati (Macfadyena unguis-cati, Bignonia tweedieana, Bignonia unguis-cati, Doxantha unguis-cati) Cat's claw vine			Score
1.01	Is the species highly domesticated?	n	0
1.02	Has the species become naturalised where grown?		
1.03	Does the species have weedy races?		
2.01	Species suited to FL climates (USDA hardiness zones; 0-low, 1-intermediate, 2-high)	2	
2.02	Quality of climate match data (0-low; 1-intermediate; 2-high)	2	
2.03	Broad climate suitability (environmental versatility)	У	1
2.04	Native or naturalized in regions with an average of 11-60 inches of annual precipitation	У	1
2.05	Does the species have a history of repeated introductions outside its natural range?	У	
3.01	Naturalized beyond native range	У	2
3.02	Garden/amenity/disturbance weed	n	0
3.03	Weed of agriculture	У	4
3.04	Environmental weed	У	4
3.05	Congeneric weed	n	0
4.01	Produces spines, thorns or burrs	n	0
4.02	Allelopathic		
4.03	Parasitic	n	0
4.04	Unpalatable to grazing animals		
4.05	Toxic to animals	n	0
4.06	Host for recognised pests and pathogens	n	0
4.07	Causes allergies or is otherwise toxic to humans	n	0
4.08	Creates a fire hazard in natural ecosystems	n	0
4.09	Is a shade tolerant plant at some stage of its life cycle	У	1
4.10	Grows on infertile soils (oligotrophic, limerock, or excessively draining soils). North & Central Zones: infertile soils; South Zone: shallow limerock or Histisols.	У	1
4.11	Climbing or smothering growth habit	У	1
4.12	Forms dense thickets	У	1
5.01	Aquatic	n	0
5.02	Grass	n	0
5.03	Nitrogen fixing woody plant	n	0
5.04	Geophyte	У	1
6.01	Evidence of substantial reproductive failure in native habitat	n	0
6.02	Produces viable seed	У	1
6.03	Hybridizes naturally		
6.04	Self-compatible or apomictic	У	1
6.05	Requires specialist pollinators	n	0
6.06	Reproduction by vegetative propagation	у	1
6.07	Minimum generative time (years)		

	Risk Assessment Results	High	Risk
	Implemented Pacific Second Screening	n,	/a
	Total Score	1	.8
8.05	Effective natural enemies present in U.S.	,	
8.04	Tolerates, or benefits from, mutilation or cultivation		
8.03	Well controlled by herbicides	?	
8.02	Evidence that a persistent propagule bank is formed (>1 yr)	n	-1
8.01	Prolific seed production n		-1
7.08	Propagules dispersed by other animals (internally)	n	-1
7.07	Propagules dispersed by other animals (externally)	n	-1
7.06	Propagules bird dispersed	n	-1
7.05	Propagules water dispersed	У	1
7.04	Propagules adapted to wind dispersal	у	1
7.03	Propagules likely to disperse as a produce contaminant	n	-1
7.02	Propagules dispersed intentionally by people	у	1
	areas)	У	1
7.01	Propagules likely to be dispersed unintentionally (plants growing in heavily trafficked		

section		satisfy
	# questions answered	minimum?
Α		11 yes
В		10 yes
С		19 yes
total		40 yes

	Reference	Source data
		555.56 Mulu
1.01		No evidence of selection for reduced weediness.
1.02		
1.03		
2.01	1. PERAL NAPPFAST Global Plant Hardiness (http://www.nappfast.org/Plant_hardiness/NAPPFAST%20Global %20zones/10-year%20climate/PLANT_HARDINESS_10YR%20lgnd.tif). 2. USDA, ARS, National Genetic Resources Program. Germplasm Resources Information Network - (GRIN) [Online Database]. National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland. http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/taxon.pl?409896 (00 Month 0000).	Zone 8a: to -12.2 °C (10 °F) USDA Zone 8b: to -9.4 °C (15°F) USDA Zone 9a: to -6.6 °C (20 °F) USDA Zone 9b: to -3.8 °C (25 °F) USDA
2.02		
2.03	1. Köppen-Geiger climate map (http://www.hydrol-earth-syst-	1. Distribution in the native/cultivated range occurs in Cfb, Cfa,
201	sci.net/11/1633/2007/hess-11-1633-2007.pdf).	Csb, Cwa, Bsk, Aw, Am, Af, Bsh, BWh, BSk
2.04	1. USDA Animal Plant and Helath Inspection Service, Weed Risk Assessment for Dolichandra unguis-cati (L.) L. G. Lohmann (Bignoniaceae) – Cat's-claw June 4, 2013 Version 1 2. Global Biodiversity Information Facility (http://www.gbif.org)	1. Native or naturalized in areas ranging from 10 inches to 100+ inches of annual rainfall. 2. Species occurs at the very tip of Baja California, which is intermixed with 10-20 inches of annual precipitation.
2.05	1. Dhileepan K. 2012. Macfadyena unguis-cati (L.) A.H. Gentry – cat's claw creeper. In: Biological Control of Weeds in Australia: 1960 to 2010 (eds M Julien , RE McFadyen & J Cullen), pp. 351–359. CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne, Australia 2. Space, J. C., and T. Flynn. 2002. Report to the government of the Cook Islands on invasive plant species of environmental concern. U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA. 3. Global invasive Species Database http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecology.asp?si=1227&lan g=EN (2-20-2015)	negro, France and Greece), Africa (Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe) and North Amer- ica (southern

3.01	University of Hawaii Press & Bishop Museum Press, Hawaii,	Naturalized in Hawaii 2. First reported naturalized in Australia in the 1950s 3. Exotic and invasive in Cuba 4. Naturalized and spreading in South Africa Naturalized and invasive in the Bahamas
3.02		no evidence
3.03	creeper (Dolichandra unguis-cati) (Bignoneaceae) http://www.arc.agric.za/arc-ppri/Pages/cat's-claw-creeper.aspx (2-27-2015) 2. Invasive Species South Africa http://www.invasives.org.za/invasive-species/item/278-cats- claw-creeper-dolichandra-unguis-cati.html (2-27-2015) 3. Downey, P. O., and I. Turnbull. 2007. The biology of Australian weeds: 48. Macfadyena unguis-cati (L.) A.H.Gentry. Plant Protection Quarterly 22(3):82-91.	1. Within these provinces the weed has become a significant invader of cultivated orchards and plantations, riparian corridors, natural forest remnants and disturbed areas such as roadsides and urban spaces. 2. This climber invades forest margins, woodlands, plantations, roadsides and urban open spaces. 3. It poses a serious risk for forestry operations as it is difficult to control and can stress and kill trees
	http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecology.asp?si=1227&lan g=EN (2-20-2015) 3. King, A. M., H. E. Williams, and L. G. Madire. 2011. Biological control of Cat's claw creeper, Macfadyena unguis cati (L.) A.H.Gentry (Bignoniaceae), in South Africa. African Entomology 19(2):366-377 4. Downey, P. O., and I. Turnbull. 2007. The biology of Australian weeds: 48. Macfadyena unguiscati (L.) A.H.Gentry. Plant Protection Quarterly 22(3):82-91.	(Bignoniaceae) is a major environmental weed of riparian areas, rainforest communities and remnant natural vegetation in coastal Queensland and New South Wales, Australia. In densely infested areas, it smothers standing vegetation, including large trees, and causes canopy collapse. Quantitative data on the ecology of this invasive vine are generally lacking. 2. M. unguiscati effects all layers of infected forest ecosystems by spreading both vertically and horizontally across everything with which it makes contact. It forms a thick carpet of leaves and stems on the forest floor, outcompeting the understory plants and stopping germination of other species. It grows to top of the forest and spreads across the canopy, killing the host trees with its weight and shade. 3. The exotic vine Macfadyena unguis-cati (L.) A.H.Gentry (Bignoniaceae), cat's claw creeper, has become a significant threat to the biodiversity of a variety of sensitive ecosystems in South Africa. 4. Destabilizes banks in riverine systems
3.05		No evidence found
4.01	1. Wagner, W. L., D. R. Herbst, and S. H. Sohmer. 1999. Manual of the Flowering Plants of Hawai'i (Revised ed., vols 1 & 2). University of Hawaii Press & Bishop Museum Press, Hawaii, U.S.A. 388 pp.	No evidence of these chracteristics in the species description.
4.02		no evidence
4.03	Nickrent, D. 2009. Parasitic plant classification. Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, IL. Last accessed June 12, 2009, http://www.parasiticplants.siu.edu/ListParasites.html.	Not a member of parasitic family. [Family: Bignoniaceae]

4.04	Downey, P. O., and I. Turnbull. 2007. The biology of Australian	Lack of evidence, the plant often grows in the canopy so grazing
	weeds: 48. Macfadyena unguis-cati (L.) A.H.Gentry. Plant	is not always a control on this species.
	Protection Quarterly 22(3):82-91.	7
4.05		Palatable to cattle
4.06		no evidence
4.07		no evidence
4.08		no evidence
4.09	1. Kaufman, S. R., and W. Kaufman. 2007. Invasive Plants: Guide	1. Prefers and thrives in full sun to part shade. 2. The vine only
	to Identification and the Impacts and Control of Common North	flowers in full sunlight. [No evidence the plant can grow in full
	American Species. Stackpole Books, Mechanisburg, PA. 193-194	shade] 3. Can grow and persist in shady environments.
	pp. 2. University of Florida IFAS Extension	
	http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr391 (2-24-2018) 3. Downey & Turnbull.	
	2007. The biology of Australian weeds: 48. Macfadyena unguis-	
	cati (L.) A.H.Gentry. Plant Protection Quarterly 22(3):82-91.	
4.10	USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Soils, Global Soil	1. Soil map shows overlap of soil type in native range and all
	Regions Map	three soil zones of Florida.
	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MEDIA/nrcs142p2_050	
	722.jpg (2-27-2015)	
4.11	1. McClymont, 1996. Cat's Claw Creeper (Macfadeyena unguis-	1. Each tuber produces individual climbing runners that climb all
	cati). BRAIN (Brisbane Rainforest Action and Information	surrounding vegetation. 2. A vigorous, invasive vine
	Network) Newsletter, April 1996.	that can climb structures to 15 m or more in height. 3.
	http://www.brisrain.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?viewMode=print	
	able&ID=285 2. Vivian-Smith, G. and Panetta, F.D. (2004).	that climbs trees and also forms a dense mat on the ground.
	Seedbank ecology of the invasive vine, cat's claw creeper	
	(Macfadyena unguis-cati (L.) Gentry). Proceed- ings of the 14th	
	Australian Weeds Conference, eds B.M. Sindel and S.B. Johnson,	
	pp. 531-7. (Weed Society of New South Wales, Sydney). 3. Space,	
	J. C., and T. Flynn. 2002. Report to the government of the Cook	
	Islands on invasive plant species of environmental concern.	
	U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station,	
	Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, Honolulu, Hawaiʻi, USA.	
4.12	1. Lin Besaans (2011) © ARC Plant Protection Research Institute	The vine is particularly damaging in forested areas where
	CAT'S CLAW CREEPER (formerly Macfadyena unguis-cati	thickets of vegetation can develop in the canopy which, through
	A.H.Gentry) FACT SHEETS ON INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS AND THEIR	shading and sheer mass, break branches and can eventually kill
	CONTROL IN SOUTH AFRICA http://www.arc.agric.za/arc-	trees. Invasion is not restricted to the forest canopy however, as
	ppri/Fact%20Sheets%20Library/Dolichandra%20unguis-cati.pdf	the plant is able to grow along the ground, forming a dense
	(2-24-2015)	groundcover which smothers indigenous vegetation, and
		prevents germi- nation of native species.
5.01		Family: Bignoniaceae
5.02		Family: Bignoniaceae
5.03		No evidence. The Bignoniaceae is not one of the plant families
		known to contain nitrogen-fixing species
5.04	Vivian-Smith, G. and Panetta, F.D. (2004). Seedbank ecology of	1. When on the ground, they can penetrate the soil, producing
		tubers at the nodes and forming below-ground tuber networks.
		2. Our findings suggest this may not be all encompassing; close to
	eds B.M. Sindel and S.B. Johnson, pp. 531-7. (Weed Society of	90% of the plants excavated had a rather small number of tubers
	New South Wales, Sydney). 2.Osunkoya OO, Pyle K, Scharaschkin	l
	T, Dhileepan K (2009) What lies beneath? The pattern and	0.5–10 cm) and there was a greater number of genets rather
	abundance of the subterranean tuber bank of the invasive liana	than ramets.
	cat's claw creeper, Macfadyena unguis-cati (Bignoniaceae).	
	Australian Journal of Botany 57, 132–138. 2. Vivian-Smith, G. and	
C 01	Panetta, F.D. (2004).	no ovidence
6.01		no evidence

6.02	1. Osunkoya OO, Pyle K, Scharaschkin T, Dhileepan K (2009) What lies beneath? The pattern and abundance of the subterranean tuber bank of the invasive liana cat's claw creeper, Macfadyena unguis-cati (Bignoniaceae). Australian Journal of Botany 57, 132–138. 2. Vivian-Smith, G. and Panetta, F.D. (2004). Seedbank ecology of the invasive vine, cat's claw creeper (Macfadyena unguis-cati (L.) Gentry). Proceed- ings of the 14th Australian Weeds Conference, eds B.M. Sindel and S.B. Johnson, pp. 531-7. (Weed Society of New South Wales, Sydney).	1. Macfadyena unguis-cati can propagate both from seeds and vegetatively from belowground tubers. 2. The presence of viable seeds in samples of deposited instream litter is evidence that water is a likely secondary seed dispersal agent.
6.03		no evidence
6.04	1. Vivian-Smith, G. and Panetta, F.D. (2004). Seedbank ecology of the invasive vine, cat's claw creeper (Macfadyena unguis-cati (L.) Gentry). Proceed- ings of the 14th Australian Weeds Conference, eds B.M. Sindel and S.B. Johnson, pp. 531-7. (Weed Society of New South Wales, Sydney). 2. Global Invasive Speices Database http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecology.asp?si=1227&lan g=EN (2-22-2015) 3. Downey, P. O., and I. Turnbull. 2007. The biology of Australian weeds: 48. Macfadyena unguis-cati (L.) A.H.Gentry. Plant Protection Quarterly 22(3):82-91.	suggesting polyembryony (a form of apomixis). 2. The flowers of M. unguis-cati are bisexual 3. Multiple seedlings from a single seed suggests it is facultatively apomictic
6.05		no evidence
6.06	lies beneath? The pattern and abundance of the subterranean tuber bank of the invasive liana cat's claw creeper, Macfadyena unguis-cati (Bignoniaceae). Australian Journal of Botany 57, 132–138. 2. Dhileepan K. 2012. Macfadyena unguis-cati (L.) A.H. Gentry – cat's claw creeper. In: Biological Control of Weeds in Australia: 1960 to 2010 (eds M Julien , RE McFadyen & J Cullen), pp. 351–359. CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne, Australia. 3. Vivian-Smith, G. and Panetta, F.D. (2004). Seedbank ecology of the invasive vine, cat's claw creeper (Macfadyena unguis-cati (L.) Gentry). Proceed- ings of the 14th Australian Weeds Conference, eds B.M. Sindel and S.B. Johnson, pp. 531-7. (Weed Society of New South Wales, Sydney).	1. The study revealed that M. unguis-cati vine recruitment is both from seed and vegetative propagation 2. The plant can be propagated from seed, and vegetatively from below-ground tubers. 2. Persistence of infestations following regular control efforts may be largely due to regeneration from the below-ground tuber bank.
6.07	USDA Animal Plant and Helath Inspection Service, Weed Risk Assessment for Dolichandra unguis-cati (L.) L. G. Lohmann (Bignoniaceae) – Cat's-claw June 4, 2013 Version 1	For seed-produced individuals, evidence suggests a minimum generation time of four years or more
7.01	1. Australian Weeds Committee (2013) Weeds of National Significance, Draft Cat's Claw Creeper Strategic Plan. Australian Weeds Committee, Canberra. 2. ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute (ARC-PPRI Cat's claw creeper (Dolichandra unguis-cati) (Bignoneaceae) http://www.arc.agric.za/arc-ppri/Pages/cat's-claw-creeper.aspx (2-27-2015) 3. BioNET-EAFRINET (http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/plants.htm)	1. Cat's claw creeper is a serious environmental weed which continues to spread from urban areas. 2. Within these provinces the weed has become a significant invader of cultivated orchards and plantations, riparian corridors, natural forest remnants and disturbed areas such as roadsides and urban spaces. 3. tuberous roots may be spread by floods and during human activities involving significant soil movement.

7.02	1. USDA Animal Plant and Helath Inspection Service, Weed Risk Assessment for Dolichandra unguis-cati (L.) L. G. Lohmann (Bignoniaceae) – Cat's-claw June 4, 2013 Version 1 2. Plant World Seeds http://www.plant-world-seeds.com/store/view_seed_item/1476?itemname=MACFADYEN A+UNGUIS-CATI 2. Aggie Horticulture, Texas A&M Extension (http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/2013/may/catsclaw.html)	1. Originally introduced as an ornamental 2. Still being sold as an ornamental over the internet and in some countries. 2. Promoted by Texas A&M Extension as a vine to be planted if there is a need for a vigorous vine to cover a large wall area or to climb over unsightly objects in the landscape such as an old shed, there cannot be a better subject.
7.03		no evidence
7.04	1. Kaufman, S. R., and W. Kaufman. 2007. Invasive Plants: Guide to Identification and the Impacts and Control of Common North American Species. Stackpole Books, Mechanisburg, PA. 193-194 pp. 2. McClymont, 1996. Cat's Claw Creeper (Macfadeyena unguis-cati). BRAIN (Brisbane Rainforest Action and Information Network) Newsletter, April 1996. http://www.brisrain.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?viewMode=print able&ID=285	
7.05	1. McClymont, 1996. Cat's Claw Creeper (Macfadeyena unguiscati). BRAIN (Brisbane Rainforest Action and Information Network) Newsletter, April 1996. http://www.brisrain.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?viewMode=print able&ID=285 2. Kaufman, S. R., and W. Kaufman. 2007. Invasive Plants: Guide to Identification and the Impacts and Control of Common North American Species. 3. Stackpole Books, Mechanisburg, PA. 193-194 pp. 3. Rafter, M.A., Wilson, A.J., Wilmot Senaratne, K.A.D. & Dhileepan, K. (2008) Climatic-requirements models of cat's claw creeper Macfadyena unguiscati (Bignoniaceae) to prioritise areas for exploration and release of biological control agents. Biological Control	1. This seed is spread by wind and water. A large number of the infestations in Brisbane occur along the creek systems where the seed source has obviously come downstream during floods and during normal stream flow. 2. Vine seeds disperse quickly via wind and water. 3. The seeds of cat's claw creeper are capable of hydrochory and the plant can also regenerate from underground tubers and broken stems.
7.06		no evidence
7.07		no evidence
7.08		no evidence
8.01	lies beneath? The pattern and abundance of the subterranean tuber bank of the invasive liana cat's claw creeper, Macfadyena unguis-cati (Bignoniaceae). Australian Journal of Botany 57, 132–138. 2. Downey, P. O., and I. Turnbull. 2007. The biology of Australian weeds: 48. Macfadyena unguis-cati (L.) A.H.Gentry. Plant Protection Quarterly 22(3):82-91.	1. The fruits (15–45cm long), which may contain up to 200 seeds, are flattened linear capsules that mature in late summer to early autumn (February–May in Queensland, Australia). Seeds (2–4 cm long) are also flattened and oblong in shape, and are papery with two wings 2. A seed deposition study estimated rates of 167 seeds per square meter per year directly underneath plant canopies
8.02	Vivian-Smith, G. and Panetta, F.D. (2004). Seedbank ecology of the invasive vine, cat's claw creeper (Macfadyena unguis-cati (L.) Gentry). Proceed- ings of the 14th Australian Weeds Conference, eds B.M. Sindel and S.B. Johnson, pp. 531-7. (Weed Society of New South Wales, Sydney).	Our results suggest that cats claw creeper does not have a persistent seed bank. Persistence of infestations following regular control efforts may be largely due to regeneration from the below-ground tuber bank.

8.03	1. Raghu S, Dhileepan K, Trevino M (2006) Response of an invasive liana to simulated herbivory: implications for its biological control. Acta Oecologica 29, 335–345. 2. Australian Weeds Committee (2013) Weeds of National Significance, Draft Cat's Claw Creeper Strategic Plan. Australian Weeds Committee, Canberra.	1. Chemical control is difficult given the sensitive habitats (riparian and rainforest edges) invaded by this plant and the large belowground tuber reserves 2. Herbicides can be effective, providing they are carefully chosen and selectively applied when plants are actively growing. The main herbicide application methods for cat's claw creeper are described below. Stem injection and basal bark application are less commonly used.
		Basal barking in particular poses the risk of off-target damage
		because cat's claw creeper stems are usually firmly attached to
		the stem of the host tree.
8.04	1. Rafter, M.A., Wilson, A.J., Wilmot Senaratne, K.A.D. &	1. The seeds of cat's claw creeper are capable of hydrochory and
	Dhileepan, K. (2008) Climatic-requirements models of cat's claw	the plant can also regenerate from underground tubers and
	creeper Macfadyena unguis-cati (Bignoniaceae) to prioritise	broken stems. 2. Young plants will also sprout when damaged 3.
	areas for exploration and release of biological control agents.	This species tolerates mutilation. It often roots at nodes 3.
	Biological Control 2. Global Invasive Speices Database	Resprouts after fire.
	http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecology.asp?si=1227&lan	
	g=EN (2-22-2015) 3. Wagner, W. L., D. R. Herbst, and S. H.	
	Sohmer. 1999. Manual of the Flowering Plants of Hawai'i	
	(Revised ed., vols 1 & 2). University of Hawaii Press & Bishop	
	Museum Press, Hawaii, U.S.A. 388 pp. 3. Downey & Turnbull.	
	2007. The biology of Australian weeds: 48. Macfadyena unguis-	
	cati (L.) A.H.Gentry. Plant Protection Quarterly 22(3):82-91.	
8.05		research ongoing