CalEPPC News

A quarterly publication of the California Exotic Pest Plant Council

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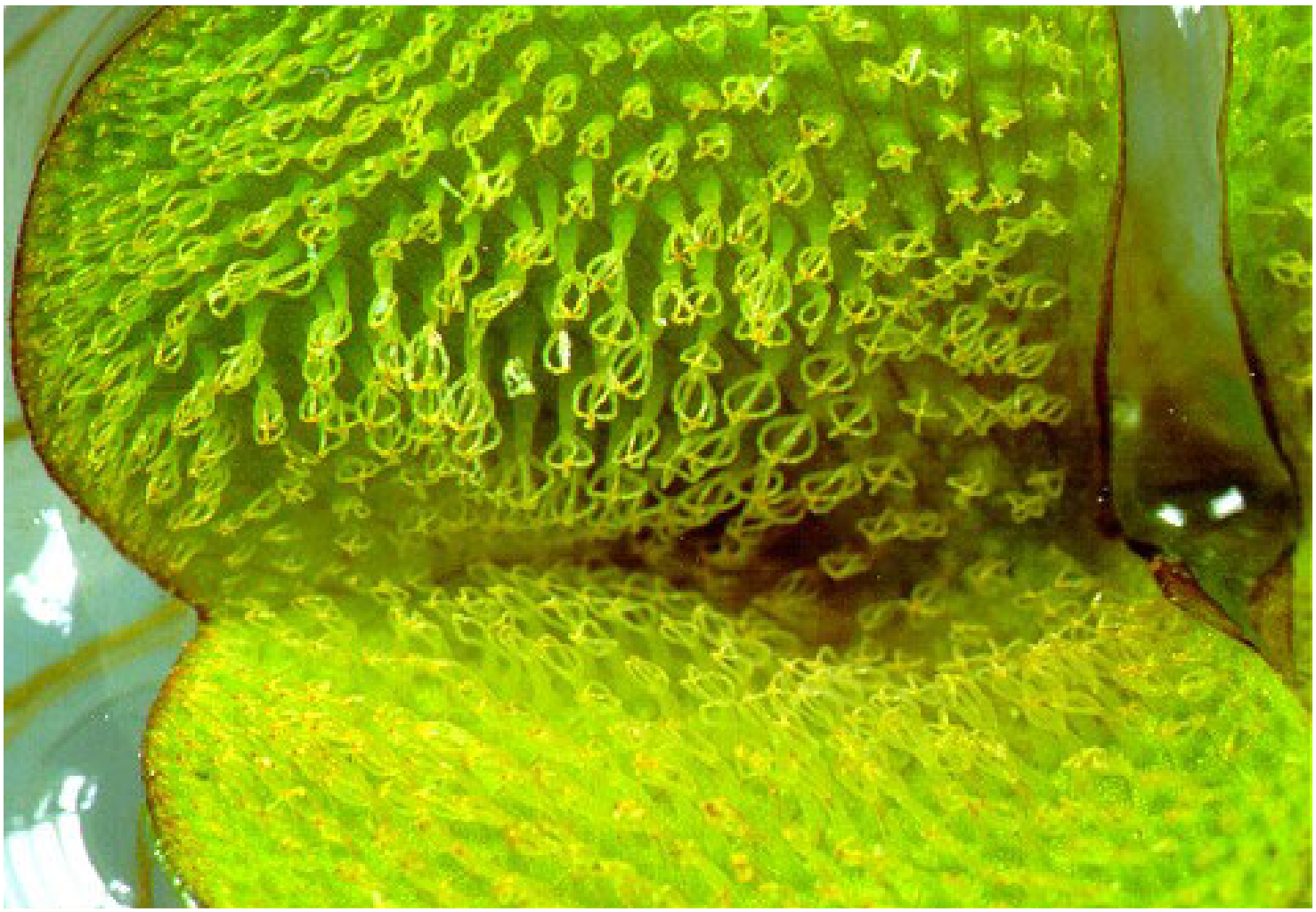

Giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) Closeup picture from The Nature Conservancy's Weeds-on-the-Web Homepage (http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu). See *2001 Red Alerts* this issue.

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Who We Are

CalEPPC NEWS is published quarterly by the California Exotic Pest Plant Council, a non-profit organization. The objects of the organization are to:

- provide a focus for issues and concerns regarding exotic pest plants in California;
- facilitate communication and the exchange of information regarding all aspects of exotic pest plant control and management;
- provide a forum where all interested parties may participate in meetings and share in the benefits from the information generated by this council;
- promote public understanding regarding exotic pest plants and their control;
- serve as an advisory council regarding funding, research, management and control of exotic pest plants;
- facilitate action campaigns to monitor and control exotic pest plants in California; and
- review incipient and potential pest plant management problems and activities and provide relevant information to interested parties.

Please Note:

The California Exotic Pest Plant Council is a California 501(c)3 non-profit, public benefit corporation organized to provide a focus for issues and concerns regarding exotic pest plants in California, and is recognized under federal and state tax laws as a qualified donee for tax deductible charitable contribution.

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CalEPPC News Editor: Mike Kelly (see above for address)

Submissions for CalEPPC News

If you'd like to submit a news item, article, meeting announcement, or job opportunity for publicaton in the CalEPPC News, it must be sent in both electronic and hard copy forms to the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions. Send your text/disk/email to edtior's address above.

10th Anniversary Symposium & Transitions

Mike Kelly

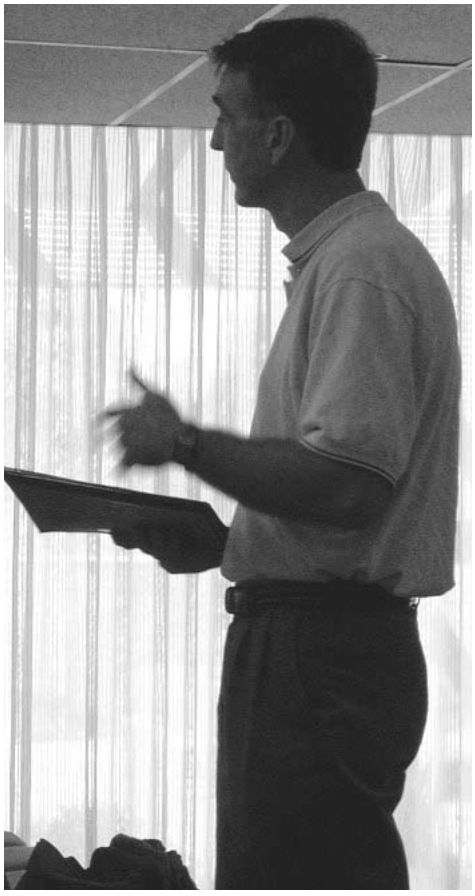
CalEPPC's 10th Anniversary Symposium, held in San Diego this past October, was noteworthy in several respects. First, some 230 people registered for the event despite the proximity to Sept. 11th, the uncertainties of air travel, and agency (and personal) budget cutbacks.

The desert-themed sessions of the symposium succeeded in attracting participants from the desert southwest. This was an important goal of CalEPPC, to highlight desert issues and seek ways to form partnerships amongst desert land managers and conservationists. From the U.S. Geological Survey friday morning sessions through the afternoon's lively desert organization presentations and panels to the evening's desert workshop, I think we succeeded in plumbing the ecological and organization issues of the desert regions. I expect significant colla–borations will flow from this jam-packed first day of the CalEPPC Symposium. Saturday's sessions found us back on familiar California turf with a series of talks on significant weed issues and related research and more of the species specific weed workshops that are always so popular at the conferences.

Transitions

Our annual business meeting is always held Saturday, in a session where we announce the results of the elections, hear first alert reports from The Nature Conservancy's Mandy Tu and John Randall, and get updates on our Cape ivy and International Broom Initiatives, and a national report from Nelroy Jackson, a member of the National Weed Council and National EPPC.

This business meeting was a bit different though. I introduced newly elected members of the Board of Directors and the new officers. It was when I was introducing past presidents who were in attendance, including John Randall, Carla Bossard, and Mike Pitcairn, that it struck me we were in a big transition for the organization. On the one hand we had announced we wanted to hire an Executive Director, our first paid position for the group. On the other hand, our Board no longer had a majority of "old-timers," volunteers who had founded CalEPPC at our first symposium at Moro Bay in 1992 and served on the Board of Directors, often for many years. Over the years since we've had a normal attrition from the Board, losing founders such as Greg Archbald, Ann Howald, John Randall, Sally Davis, Nelroy Jackson and others. Most remain active as members and remain active in weed affairs.



Incoming president Joe DiTomaso leading a workshop at Symposium.

Outgoing president Mike Kelly enjoying a lighter moment at the annual business meeting.

The transition is bringing in younger blood, younger than the original Board. Typically they're graduate students who've cut their eye teeth on wildland weed issues. I wondered about this "younger" blood a bit until we had our annual Board dinner. At the end of day each Saturday at our annual symposium we're in the habit of treating ourselves to a collective dinner together where old and new Board members get to mix a bit socially and get to know each other. We were about half-an-hour and at least one beer into this year's dinner at a local San Diego brewery when I delighted in the realization that several of these younger Board members were animatedly and confidentally holding forth on weed issues with "veterans." YES . . . .

2001 Red Alert!
New Expansions into and around California

Mandy Tu and John M. Randall

[The authors can be reached at: The Nature Conservancy Wildland Invasive Species Program, Dept. of Vegetable Crops & Weed Sciences, Univ. of Calif., Davis, CA 95616. Phone: 530-754-8891; FAX: 530-752-4604]. E-mail: imtu@tnc.org;

The 2001 CalEPPC Red Alert! for this year again provides an account of species that are either new to California and have the potential to become widely invasive, or update reports on already-established species that are rapidly expanding their range(s) in the state. Many of these species are already known to be invasive in other areas and could become troublesome in California. The Red Alert! for 2001 includes five species that are newly invasive to California (or specific areas within California) and three updates. Be sure to look for updates on new non-native species in CalEPPC News, the Noteworthy Collections section of the journal *Madroño*, and on The Nature Conservancy's Weeds-on-the-Web Homepage (http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu).

Newly detected species with potential to be natural area invaders

Cabomba caroliniana (cabomba, Carolina fanwort) is an aquatic perennial herb in the Cabombaceae (watershield family) which can be distinguished by its dimorphic leaves. It has floating leaves that are shield-shaped and submerged leaves that are fan-shaped and deeply dissected. It is native to the eastern United States and has been present in California since at least 1980 (L. Anderson, in Hrusa et al. in mss.). *C. caroliniana* is a very popular plant in the aquarium industry and is of concern because it is able to spread rapidly and can completely fill the water-column. *C. caroliniana* is listed as a noxious weed in Washington State, and is now a dominant in some Sacramento River delta locations (Hrusa et al. in mss.). Joe DiTomaso of U.C. Davis reports seeing *C. caroliniana* in Lewiston Lake in Trinity County (northern California), but there are no specimens from this location confirming this sighting.

Euphorbia oblongata (eggleaf or oblong spurge) is a perennial herb in the Euphorbiaceae (spurge family) native to Europe. It is already labeled as a noxious weed (Rated B by CDFA) of waste places in the Jepson Manual (Hickman 1993), which lists *E. oblongata* as present only in the Central Valley and the San Francisco Bay area but expected to be elsewhere. CalFlora indicates that this species has also been documented along the central California coast and inland. Dean Kelch (UC Berkeley) reports *E. oblongata* is also now common from the Berkeley Hills area north to the Carquinez Strait, and that it is able to spread from disturbed roadsides into dry shaded slopes under an oak woodland canopy. Fred Hrusa (CDFA) adds that he has specimens of *E. oblongata* in the Sierra Nevada up to 4,000 feet in elevation at the CDFA Botany Herbarium.

Lavatera cretica (smaller tree-mallow) is an annual or biennial herb in the Malvaceae (mallow family) which was described in the Jepson Manual (Hickman 1993) as uncommon in the central and south coast regions. CalFlora documents *L. cretica* as present along most of the California coast. Southern Californian botanist Carl Wishner reports that *L. cretica* is well-distri–buted along the coast and along roads in southern California from the Malibu Civic Center west to Zuma Canyon. He adds that he has even seen a few plants along the main roads leading over the Santa Monica Mountains.

Hedera canariensis (Algerian ivy) is a sprawling woody vine in the Araliaceae (ginseng family), and it is often mistaken as *Hedera helix*

Giant salvina (*Salvinia molesta*) infestation. Picture from The Nature Conservancy's Weeds-on-the-Web Homepage (http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu).

(English ivy). It has larger leaves with fewer lobes than *H. helix*, although some naturalized forms of *H. canariensis* are apparently morphologically indistinguishable from *H. helix*. *H. canariensis* is commonly sold as an ornamental or as ground cover. Its leaves can be completely green or variegated in color. It is of particular concern because it is able to invade relatively undisturbed forest understories. Hrusa et al. (in mss.) states that it occurs throughout the Bay Area where it is probably even more common than *H. helix*, and it has also been documented from both the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains in southern California.

Saccharum ravennae (Ravenna grass) is a perennial bunchgrass in the Poaceae (grass family). This species is native to Eurasia and is often mistaken as pampas grass or jubatagrass (*Cortaderia selloana* & *C. jubata*). *S. ravennae* has attractive, tall (up to 3 meters) pluming inflorescences and is frequently planted as a showy ornamental. In the Grand Canyon, the National Park Service has been trying to control this invasive species since 1993. In California, *S. ravennae* has been documented in the southern Sonoran Desert (Imperial County) where it is invasive in ditchbanks and marshes. Fred Hrusa (pers. comm.) reports that the Botany Herbarium at CDFA has specimens of *S. ravennae* in Sutter County from the 1970s, and also mentioned that the genus *Saccharum* is sometimes also called *Erianthus*. Recently, Joe DiTomaso reported that there are rapidly expanding populations of *S. ravennae* in Cache Creek preserve in Yolo County (Northern California).

Updates

Achnatherum brachychaetum (Argentine needlegrass or punagrass) is a tufted perennial grass (Poaceae) that has already been listed in California and in Arizona for some time as a noxious weed. It was listed as being eradicated from the San Joaquin Valley in Fresno County in the Jepson Manual (Hickman 1993), but an infestation covering a large area just off of I-5 near Tracy was recently discovered. The CalFlora database (information obtained from CDFA Botany Lab) now documents this species in 7 counties in California. Joe DiTomaso adds that *A. brachychaetum* has both outcrossing flowers and basally-located cleistogamous flowers and that therefore, mowing alone is not an effective means to control this grass.

Salvinia molesta (giant salvinia) is a floating, aquatic herb in the Salviniaceae (a fern family). It is a very popular aquarium plant, and even though it is a federally-listed noxious weed and every county within California is trying to restrict its sale, *S. molesta* is still widely sold. *S. molesta* has the capability of overtaking large areas of aquatic habitat, and has been reported from several sites in southern California. It is listed on CalEPPCs 1999 exotic plant list and is expanding its range in California. Hrusa et al. (in mss.) reports that it is now well-established in aquatic habitats in Imperial, Riverside, and San Diego counties, and that control efforts have been very effective in controlling and sometimes even eradicating this species from canals.

Hydrilla verticillata (hydrilla) is an aquatic perennial herb in the Hydrocharitaceae (waterweed family), and is a federally-listed and California-listed noxious weed. It's also already on CalEPPCs Red Alert list. It was found in Clear Lake (Lake County, CA) in the early 1990s and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has been working diligently since 1994 to eradicate it from this site in order to prevent it from spreading. Robert Leavitt of CDFA reports that the Hydrilla Eradication Program has been very successful in reducing the biomass and number of hydrilla plants in Clear Lake, and that the program is still ongoing. Steve Schoenig of CDFA reports that H. verticillata has recently been found in Yuba County, Calaveras County, and the Redding area of California, but these infestations are not too large and should be manageable. *H. verticillata* has also recently been reported from the Tucson area in Arizona.

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***Salvinia molesta* closeup of leaf.**

Weed Alert!

Hypericum canariense L. (Canary Island St. Johnswort)

Mandy Tu

Summary

Hypericum canariense has recently been observed invading natural areas in San Mateo, Santa Barbara and San Diego counties in California. It's thought to have escaped from cultivation (CDFA 2001), as it has traits desirable to horticulturists (i.e. attractive, ornamental foliage and large, bright orange flowers). Native to the Canary Islands, it's been found growing in the wild in disturbed places, coastal sage scrub, and in grassland habitats up to 100 meters in elevation in coastal areas of California. *H. canariense* has the potential to extend its range inland from its present coastal distribution.

Description

Hypericum canariense is a shrub in the Hypericaceae (formerly Clusiaceae) – St. Johnswort family. *H. canariense* can grow up to 5 meters tall and has simple, opposite leaves that are oblong-lanceolate, with tapered bases. They range in size from 2 to 7 cm long. The yellow-orange flowers are large and showy with petals (12 to 15 mm in size) and stamens that persist after flowering. The sepals are ovate with pointed tips and have ciliate hairs along their margins. The fruits are leathery capsules that open at maturity (Hickman 1993). It's currently not widely grown as a garden or landscape plant. A web search in November 2001 revealed that it's kept at the Los Angeles Arboretum and seeds are offered for sale on the internet (Platt 2001), but on the whole the plant doesn't seem to be widely offered at wholesale or specialty nurseries in N. America.

Scientific and Common Names

The genus name *Hypericum* is derived from the Greek *hyper*, meaning over, and *eikon*, meaning an icon or apparition (over an apparition). It was thought to have been able to protect one from evil spirits and has been used in several Greek names such as Hyperion or Hyperides. The species epithet *canariense* means "of the Canary Islands". The common name of St. Johnswort is from its association of St. John the Baptist. There are currently no accepted synonyms for *H. canariense*.

Impacts

The overall impacts of this new invader are unknown, but *H. canariense* appears to outcompete and exclude nearly all other vegetation once it has invaded. In coastal California areas that have become infested, *H. canariense* can comprise up to 90 to 100% of the vegetation cover, and it outcompetes and excludes both the native scrub vegetation (*Baccharis* spp., *Toxicodendron diversilobum*) as well as other non-native vegetation such as jubatagrass (*Cortaderia jubata*). The only native plants that persist after *H. canariense* invasions are trees that are over 1.5 m tall (J. Wade, personal communication). In favorable conditions, infestations of *H. canariense* can spread at a rate of up to 45-90 meters per year.

Native Range

H. canariense is native to the Canary Islands, where it is often located in xerophytic scrub or forested zones, from 150 to 800 meters in elevation. It can be very common locally (Bramwell & Bramwell 1974).

Range as an Invader

In North America, *H. canariense* occurs as an invader in Hawaii and in California (USDA-NRCS 2001). Previous reports from California list this species as being present only in San Diego and Santa Barbara counties in southern California (CalFlora 2001). The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California (Hickman 1993) lists the species as uncommon in disturbed places below 100 m in the South Coast subregion of the state. In San Diego, *H. canariense* has escaped cultivation as an ornamental near the Point Loma military cemetery (M. Kelly, pers. comm.).

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Hypericum canariense flowers and leaves

Keep It in the Garden

Developing a List of Non-invasive Alternatives To Replace Invasive Horticultural Species in California

Alison E. Stanton

The Problem

It's estimated that nearly 40% of the species on the U.S. Department of Interior's endangered and threatened list are at risk from alien invaders. Public awareness of this critical environmental problem is still relatively low. Consequently, plants with known invasive tendencies are for sale in nurseries in areas where they have already escaped or have the ecological potential for spread.

The horticultural trade is a significant path of introduction for many of our worst plant invaders. Faith Campbell of the American Lands Alliance compiled a list of 452 "worst invasive plant species in the conterminous US" and found that 271 species or 60% were for sale through Andersen's Horticultural Library. For example, pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) is available in many California nurseries despite the fact that land managers in coastal regions often cite these aggressive plants as a top management concern.

Invasive horticultural stock is not a new problem, but noxious weed policies and regulations have not caught up. Current weed management regulations in California only target noxious weeds that are listed in either the Federal Noxious Weed Act or the CA Department of Food and Agriculture noxious weed list. Many invasive plant species, especially those that primarily invade natural areas, are not listed. There is a pronounced emphasis within weed management on the control of incipient weed infestations with much less attention paid to prevention. No mechanism exists in the current framework for controlling the propagation, distribution, and sale of unlisted species with known invasive tendencies.

A rigorous education campaign is required to combat further releases and introductions of invasive exotic plants into California's natural landscapes. It's critical to develop regional lists of invasive ornamental plants that should not be sold in California. It's equally important to provide non-invasive alternatives that will help nursery owners make an informed decision to sell non-invasive substitutes in place of known invasive species.

The Solution

The California Exotic Pest Plant Council (CalEPPC) is prepared to work with the California Association of Nurserymen (CAN) and other stakeholders to adopt and promote voluntary guidelines on handling known invasive species within the nursery industry. A campaign slogan, "Keep it in the Garden," has already been adopted in preliminary meetings. The program will target growers, nursery retailers, commercial users, and the gardening public.

CalEPPC has received a grant of $15,000 from Environmental Defense to develop educational materials for the "Keep It in the Garden" campaign. I wrote the grant application and will be primarily responsible for implementing the project. I received my MS in Horticulture and Agronomy through the Weed Science Program at U.C. Davis where I conducted my thesis research on pampasgrass and jubatagrass, which I presented at the 2000 CalEPPC Symposium.

I plan to convene an initial workshop composed of academic horticulturists, scientists from the Weed Research Information Center at U.C. Davis, California Agricultural Commissioners, and representatives from CAN, CA Department of Food and Agriculture, and CalEPPC. Workshop participants will address the criteria for determining whether a plant is invasive. The initial goal will be to identify a list of currently available ornamental plants, by region of the state, which invade natural areas that should not be sold in nurseries in California. The list will be compiled from plants appearing on the CalEPPC "List of Exotic Pest Plants of Greatest Ecological Concern in California."

The state will be divided into a number of geographic zones and each species assigned to the zones where it is known to invade or has the significant potential to spread. Identified plants will be categorized according to standard horticultural criteria such as growth habit, hardiness zone, appropriate landscape uses, and propagation methods. Based on these horticultural criteria, the working group will determine non-invasive alternatives for each plant on the list. Thus, the list of alternatives will enable nursery industry members, commercial users, and the gardening public to select the "right plant for the job," while minimizing the risks of garden escapes.

A major goal of this project is to establish some guidelines that address a serious environmental problem in an arena where no policy exists. The California horticulture industry is a major economic force and an

Continued on page 11

Help needed in collecting more seed

Cape Ivy Germinating in California and Oregon

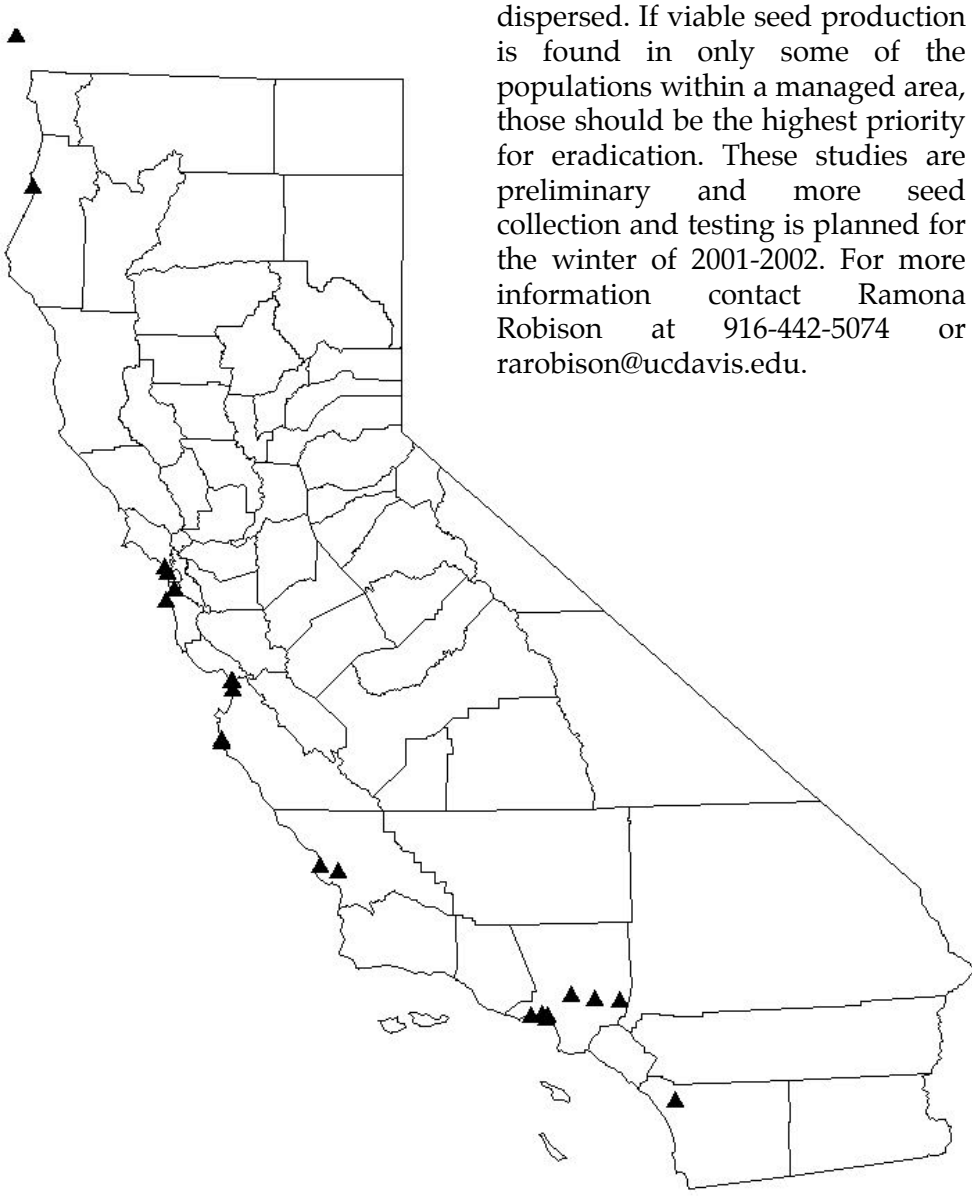
Ramona Robison

[**Note:** this is a followup article to the Spring 2001 CalEPPC News article on Cape Ivy.]

Cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*) seeds collected in February and March, 2001, from throughout California and Oregon were tested for germination potential under greenhouse conditions. Twenty large, filled seeds were selected and then planted in pots of moist soil which were watered by overhead misters in a greenhouse. The greenhouse temperature range during the experiments was between 15 and 34ºC (59.6 and 94ºF).

Seeds sprouted between 6 and 31 days after planting, and all the seed locations tested eventually germinated (see photographs and table). While this study did not test the un-filled seed from all locations collected, it does prove that Cape ivy is producing germinable seed throughout its range in California and Oregon. The method used to test seed germination was not difficult and could be used by volunteers and resource managers to test whether their individual populations are producing germinable seed. The method for testing a population for germinable seed production requires collecting ripe seed and drying it in paper bags kept at room temperature, separating large, filled seeds from the rest of the flowering material, placing those seeds in pots of moist potting soil, and watering with a light mist daily for a few weeks to determine whether seeds will sprout.

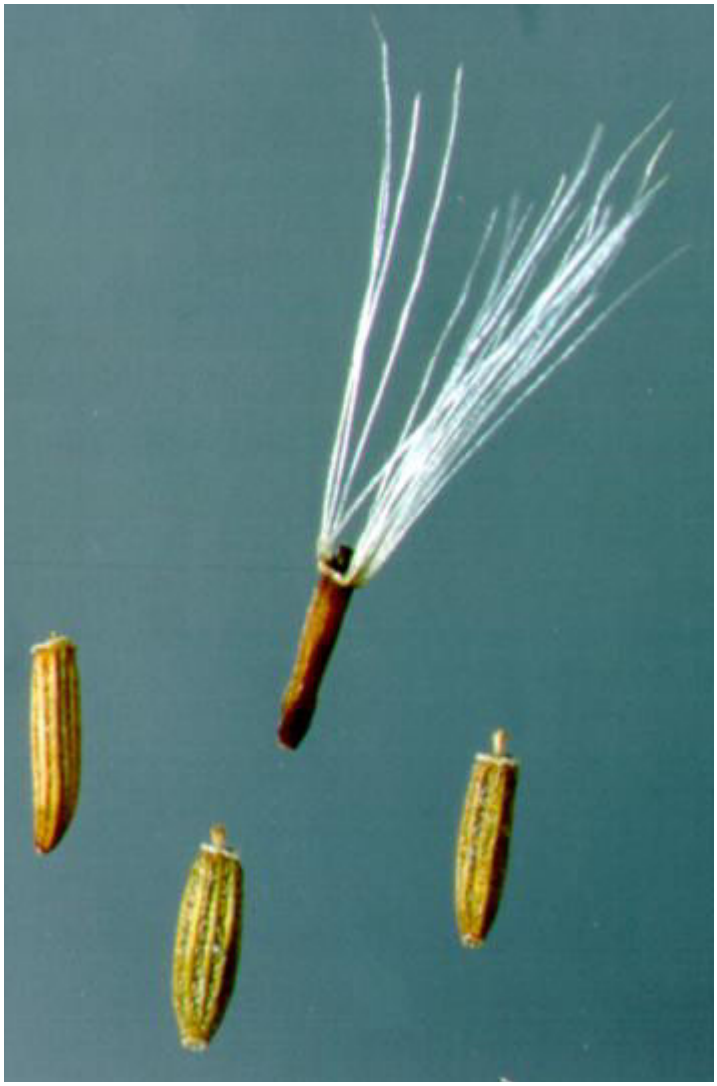
The production of germinable Cape ivy seed has practical implications for its management and control in California. Before developing a management strategy, a population should first be tested for seed viability as Cape ivy seeds are wind dispersed. If viable seed production is found in only some of the populations within a managed area, those should be the highest priority for eradication. These studies are preliminary and more seed collection and testing is planned for the winter of 2001-2002. For more information contact Ramona Robison at 916-442-5074 or rarobison@ucdavis.edu.



Cape ivy locations. Point above California map is Curry County, Oregon.

Election Note

Col. Val Prehoda was unable to take her seat on CalEPPC's Board because of a job promotion to Alaska! Also, Joe Balciunas resigned his seat upon recommendation of his employer since CalEPPC raises Cape ivy funds that go to his employer. Under the Bylaws, the Board appointed Peter Warner and Scott Steinmaus to fill their seats for 2002, at which time a new election will be held.



Cape ivy seed

Locations of Germinable Cape Ivy Seed Collected in February and March, 2001 (all locations but one in California)

Lot #	County	Location
1	San Diego	Bonsall Preserve
2	Los Angeles	San Dimas Canyon
3	Los Angeles	Glendale, Elinita Rd.
4	Los Angeles	Monrovia Canyon
5	Los Angeles	Palisades Drive
7	Los Angeles	Will Rogers State Historic Park, below entrance
8	Los Angeles	Temescal Canyon
9	Los Angeles	Will Rogers State Historic Park, near entrance
11	Curry County, Oregon	Pistol River Schoolhouse
12	Marin	Rodeo Valley Creek, GGNRA
13	Marin	Rodeo Valley Maintenance Station
14	San Francisco	Presidio off Battery, just over Golden Gate Bridge
16	San Mateo	McNee Ranch south of Pacifica
17	Monterey	San Jose Creek near Pt. Lobos
18	Monterey	Gibson Creek, Pt. Lobos
19	Santa Cruz	Pajaro River
20	Santa Cruz	Watsonville Slough off San Andreas Rd.
25	Monterey	Elkhorn Slough near Moss Landing powerplant
26	S. L. Obispo	Chorro Flats in Morro Bay State Park
27	San Mateo	San Bruno Mountain, bottom
49	Humboldt	McKinleyville, School Road .5 miles west of Central Ave.
50	S. L. Obispo	High Street, San Luis Obispo

Cape ivy seedlings

Job Announcement

Part Time Executive Director for CalEPPC

The Board of Directors of the **California Exotic Pest Plant Council** invites applications for the half -time position of Executive Director of the Council. The Executive Director will manage the Council's operations from the successful candidate's home town. The Council has an annual operating budget of $100,000. The Executive Director reports directly to the President of the Board of Directors and has four primary areas of responsibility:

1. Development of fund raising program to encourage support from foundation, corporate, and private entities.
2. Responsibility for directing the business and financial affairs of the Association. This includes: day-to-day administrative tasks; membership and subscriptions; oversight of the managing editor and journal operations, and office staff; implementation of the annual work plan; staff development; newsletter; completion of strategic plan.
3. Serve as liaison to local CalEPPC annual symposium organizers and provide administrative or logistic support; support the development of regional, international workshops, special projects, and publications.
4. Promote the field of invasive weed management to enhance the scientific basis and programs at the local, state, and federal level.

Qualifications: We seek candidates who have demonstrated ability in: administration of organizations, fiscal management, fund raising, membership building; understanding of non-profit organization; strong written and verbal communication skills; outstanding interpersonal skills. Preference will be given to those individuals with an advanced degree and related work experience in a invasive weed management oriented field. The successful candidate should have excellent problem solving abilities and be capable of working independently and without direct supervision.

Salary and anticipated start date: The salary and benefits offered is $24,000 to start. The successful candidate will be encouraged to grow the position into a full-time position. We anticipate a starting date of April 1, 2002.

Please send application materials in both electronic and hard copy formats, including a letter of interest, resume, and names and addresses of 3 references to: CalEPPC Search Committee c/o Joe DiTomaso at: UC Davis Weed Science Program, 210 Robbins Hall, Davis, CA 95616 or email to: jmditomaso@ucdavis.edu. Application must be received by February 15, 2002.

(Hypericum cont'd)

In San Mateo County in northern California, *H. canariense* currently covers approximately 25 to 40 hectares (62-99 acres) near Gazo Creek (J. Wade, pers. comm.). John Wade of the Pescadero Conservation Alliance reports that there are several populations of *H. canariense* along the coast, and that they are all rapidly expanding in range.

Reproduction and Methods of Dispersal

H. canariense produces large amounts of viable seed. Many seedlings have been found just downslope of mature shrubs in San Diego County (M. Kelly, pers. comm.).

Control

Little information is available on successful control methods for *H. canariense*. It could be difficult to manually remove with a weed wrench unless the ground is very soft because of its large root system. Such mechanical approaches may not be successful unless the entire root and stem portions are completely removed, as it may resprout (J. Wade, pers. comm.).

Mike Kelly (personal communication) has been successful controlling *H. canariense* by using the cut-stump herbicide application method. He first cut the stems with a chainsaw, then applied the herbicide glyphosate (brand name RoundUp®) at full strength to the cut-stump. Mike suspects that a less-concentrated solution of herbicide might also be effective, but has not tested the efficacy of differing amounts of herbicide on *H. canariense* control.

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(Keep It in Garden cont'd)

important stakeholder in any policymaking regarding the sale and distribution of ornamental plants. According to the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) the environmental horticulture and floriculture industry is the fastest growing sector of US agriculture, with $12.1 billion in sales in 1998. The California industry alone generated over $2.4 billion in revenues, producing 20% of the total U.S. nursery crop production (followed by Florida (11%), North Carolina and Texas (8%)).

Industry members are strongly opposed to implementing statewide or national bans on any plant species that do not appear on noxious weed lists. Many are willing to accept voluntary local restrictions on plants only in areas where they are known invaders. Others view any attempt to impose restrictions on the sale of currently unregulated plants as an infringement on their business.

There is little information on the economic impact of curtailing sales of invasive ornamentals. One reason is that the exact proportion of horticultural stock that can be considered invasive is up for debate. No consensus exists on the criteria for determining whether a plant is invasive and it is therefore difficult to determine the economic impacts of not selling certain invasive ornamentals. However, it is equally difficult to determine the consequences of continuing to sell the plants because plant invaders in natural ecosystems cause harm that is difficult to assess in monetary terms.

A list of non-invasive alternatives will be a valuable educational tool to open up dialogue between horticulturists and weed scientists on how an invasive ornamental is defined. Providing alternatives to invasive ornamentals is an easy and effective way to address the problem immediately. Efforts to implement governmental regulations are unlikely to be successful and will be time consuming and expensive. As part of the "Keep It in the Garden" campaign, the list will help to raise public awareness of the serious environmental threat of invasive species. Anyone interested in participating in the project in any capacity should contact Alison at her home office (415.379.9086) or at travertine@earthlink.net

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