



Invasive Species Compendium Caribbean News

March 2016

Feature Datasheet: *Deroceras laeve*



Adult *Deroceras laeve* in Czech and Slovak Republics ©Michal Horsákr 2010 - CC BY 3.0

Native to Europe, Asia and North America, this brown, small slug (less than 22 mm long) is invasive throughout its introduced range which includes South America and Oceania and islands such as: Hawaii and Bermuda (USA); Sao Tome and Principe, and Cape Verde (Africa); and Dominica (the Caribbean). Confusion with other species partly obscures understanding of its introduced distribution. It feeds on living and dead plant material and has important survival strategies: significant freeze tolerance and a well-developed anaerobic metabolism (it can stay underwater for days). Largely confined to habitats not occupied by many other slugs, it may have an impact on threatened plant species in vulnerable ecosystems. You can access the datasheet on *D. laeve* [here](#).

Invasive Plants in the Caribbean - ISC collaborates with the Smithsonian Institution – we need your help too!

Invasive species managers in the Caribbean, continental USA and other neighbouring countries will benefit from scientific information collated to improve efforts to prevent, eradicate or control invasive plant species in a collaboration involving the Invasive Species Compendium, the Smithsonian Institution, botanists in Puerto Rico and the USDA's Invasive Species Coordination Programme.



Hairy Indigo (*Indigofera hirsuta*) flower
©Bob Peterson - 2011 - CC BY-SA 2.0

Thoroughly analysing the US National Herbarium collections from the Caribbean, the Smithsonian is prioritizing invasives from that region and uncovering detailed distributions by island and by habitat to assess species range expansion. Results from these analyses can be found at the web page at the Smithsonian Institution (<http://botany.si.edu/antilles/WestIndies/>) and in book form ([Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong, 2012](#)). Datasheets are then being compiled by the Smithsonian for the most important invasive plants and these are being published in the ISC.

New datasheets on 140 plant species that are invasive in the Caribbean have so far been published in the ISC as a result of this project and 55 existing datasheets have been reviewed and updated.

So far the project has focused on US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico and is moving on to cover Bahamas, Cuba and Jamaica... other Caribbean countries will follow.

We need to check our data against your National Lists!

To ensure that we are collating our information as accurately as possible we would like to check our data against national invasive species inventories from the Caribbean.

Please... it would be extremely valuable to this project if you could forward a list of invasive plants in your country, or pass this information on to a contact who can, and let us know at compend@cabi.org.

We can then; let you know 1) which of the species on your list are covered already in the ISC and 2) any additional species can be fed into the project for future datasheet compilation and publication.

New Datasheets relevant to the Caribbean

Since the previous newsletter, 41 new datasheets of particular importance to the Caribbean have been published:

[*Acacia glauca*](#)
[*Acanthospermum australe*](#)
[*Andropogon glomeratus*](#)
[*Argemone ochroleuca*](#)
[*Bocconia frutescens*](#)
[*Bothriocephalus acheilognathi*](#)
[*Bothriochloa ischaemum*](#)
[*Bruqmansia suaveolens*](#)
[*Canine distemper virus*](#)
[*Cassytha filiformis*](#)
[*Centella asiatica*](#)
[*Cuphea carthagenensis*](#)
[*Cyperus papyrus*](#)
[*Dactylis glomerata*](#)
[*Deroceras laeve*](#)
[*Didelphis marsupialis*](#)
[*Flacourtia indica*](#)
[*Herichthys cyanoguttatus*](#)
[*Hypericum perforatum*](#)
[*Hypogaeococcus pungens*](#)
[*Limax maximus*](#)
[*Myroxylon balsamum*](#)
[*Nasua narica*](#)
[*Neonotonia wightii*](#)
[*Opuntia elatior*](#)
[*Oreochromis aureus*](#)
[*Pandanus tectorius*](#)
[*Passiflora liqularis*](#)
[*Phasianus colchicus*](#)
[*Phleum pratense*](#)
[*Pluchea carolinensis*](#)
[*Portulaca pilosa*](#)
[*Portulaca quadrifida*](#)
[*Roystonea oleracea*](#)
[*Rubus niveus*](#)
[*Salvia occidentalis*](#)
[*Silene latifolia subsp. alba*](#)
[*Solanum capsicoides*](#)
[*Tephrosia candida*](#)
[*Thespesia populnea*](#)
[*Urochloa distachya*](#)

Feature Review: *Solanum elaeagnifolium*



Solanum elaeagnifolium plant in flower
©T.Olckers/ARC-PPRI

Commonly known as silverleaf nightshade, this tenacious weed has been widely introduced beyond its native range, the Americas. It is particularly invasive in Cuba and Hawaii and is difficult to control, disrupting tillage and harvesting practices. It can cause severe economic impacts as it reduces yields, competing with crops for moisture and nutrients. It also interferes with livestock, acts as a host for insects and plant diseases, and spreads by forming dense colonies from its extensive root system as well as by propagation of seeds. In South Africa the sale of agricultural products contaminated with the weed is prohibited. You can access the fully-reviewed datasheet on *S. elaeagnifolium* [here](#).

Would you like to review a species datasheet?
Contact the Compendia Editorial team now!

New Reviews relevant to the Caribbean

The following datasheets have been recently reviewed by experts:

[*Alternanthera sessilis*](#)
[*Annona cherimola*](#)
[*Annona muricata*](#)
[*Annona squamosa*](#)
[*Calopogonium caeruleum*](#)
[*Cassia javanica*](#)
[*Eucalyptus globulus*](#)
[*Hylocereus undatus*](#)
[*Ictalurus punctatus*](#)
[*Manilkara zapota*](#)
[*Momordica charantia*](#)
[*Morus nigra*](#)
[*Nicotiana tabacum*](#)
[*Pinus elliottii*](#)
[*Populus nigra*](#)
[*Ricinus communis*](#)
[*Rosmarinus officinalis*](#)
[*Rottboellia cochinchinensis*](#)
[*Schinus terebinthifolia*](#)
[*Solanum elaeagnifolium*](#)
[*Solanum tuberosum*](#)
[*Urochloa platyphylla*](#)
[*Vernicia fordii*](#)

Who's been using the Compendium?

The illustration below shows the ten countries in the Caribbean with the highest use rates for the Compendium over the past six months as recorded by Google Analytics. Worldwide; the top ten accessing countries were; USA, India, UK, Philippines, Australia, Kenya, Malaysia, Indonesia, Canada and Brazil.

Top Ten Countries

1.  Puerto Rico
2.  Trinidad & Tobago
3.  Jamaica
4.  Barbados
5.  Dominican Republic
6.  Cuba
7.  Bahamas
8.  Haiti
9.  Martinique
10.  Grenada

Top Countries



Top Cities



Top ten user countries of the Compendium in the past six months in the Caribbean (data from Google Analytics, March 2016)

We need your help!

1. We would be grateful for your input, particularly if you could give some information on how you have been using the Compendium; has it been useful as a source of information, or for repurposing to produce training materials, etc.?
2. Have you circulated information about the Compendium to work colleagues or associates? Let us know, how was it received? If you would like promotional or training material to help with this, we can provide it.
3. Would you be able contribute to the Compendium by reviewing any species datasheets? Get in touch!
4. Do you have any ideas for this newsletter? How could it be more useful, or interesting to you?

Please send your ideas and feedback to

compend@cabi.org