

Lantana camara var. aculeata

COMMON NAMES

lantana

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Aromatic shrub; stems upright to spreading, or almost scrambling to about 2m high, usu. with recurved prickles. Petioles to 2cm long. Lamina 3~13 x 1.5~7cm, ovate or oblong-ovate, crenate or crenate-serrate, densely hispidulous or scabrid above, the hairs usually dense but soft below; glandular scales minute; base cuneate to subcordate; apex acute to short-acuminate. Infl. corymbose; flowers fragrant. Peduncles 3~10cm long, moderately slender; bracts (1~3)/4 length of corolla tube, linear-lanceolate, densely hairy but eglandular. Calyx 1.5~2.5mm long, ciliate. Corolla densely puberulent outside; tube around 1cm long, narrow-cylindric; limb 6~10mm diam., when fresh, rather flat except for generally recurved lobes, usu. initially cream or pale yellow, changing to pink to rose, rarely deep yellow or orange. Drupe approx. 5mm diam., globular, black or blue-black. (- Webb et. al., 1988)

SIMILAR TAXA

The pink and yellow variety is the bad one (Ewen Cameron pers. comm.) IN NZ the dominant weedy variety seems to be the pink and yellow form. However in some areas the orange and yellow form is proving to be weedy as well. Especially on Great Barrier Island where there are several infestations of this form. (Mike Harre Auckland Regional Council). In Sydney, pink/yellow hugs the coastline. Yellow/orange/red hugs the western areas at the base of the Blue Mountains. I suspect this is related to climate (lower rainfall and higher evaporation) though not proven. (Michael Clarke, Sydney)

GENUS

Lantana

FAMILY

Verbenaceae

AUTHORITY

Lantana camara var. *aculeata* (L.) Moldenke

POISONOUS PLANT

The blue black fruit have poisoned children and stock.

ETYMOLOGY

aculeata: From the Latin *aculeus* 'stinger', *aculeatus* means 'barbed', 'stinging' or 'prickly'



Robinson Crusoe Island, Chile. Photographer: John Sawyer, Date taken: 01/05/2010, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Algies Bay, Auckland. Photographer: John Sawyer, Date taken: 01/07/2013, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

NVS CODE

LANCAM

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Gardner, R.O. 1995. *Lantana camara* warning for Northern New Zealand. Auckland Botanical Society Journal, 50: 27-28.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lantana-camara-var-aculeata/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026