



NSW DEPARTMENT OF  
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

# Weed Alert

## HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

### A form of **Chinese Violet**

*Asystasia gangetica* subspecies  
*micrantha*



Flower and fruit of *Asystasia gangetica* subspecies *micrantha*. (Photograph: G Sainty)

### A new invasive weed found in NSW

#### ■ WORLD STATUS

A form of Chinese Violet, *Asystasia gangetica* subspecies *micrantha*, is a major weed overseas and has begun to naturalise in Australia.

The *micrantha* subspecies was first recorded in NSW as naturalised at Boat Harbour, north of Newcastle, in July 1999. It is now also known from a number of nearby locations.

The commonly cultivated Chinese Violet, *Asystasia gangetica* subspecies *gangetica*, is planted widely in Australia but is less weedy. This subspecies is naturalised at Port Douglas in Queensland, and in the Northern Territory at Bartalumba Bay and Groote Eylandt.

#### ■ QUARANTINE

All subspecies of *Asystasia gangetica* have been added to the list of prohibited imports and can no longer be brought into Australia.

#### ■ THE PROBLEM

*Asystasia gangetica* subspecies *micrantha* is a rapidly growing perennial herb that grows to 1m high, but can grow over shrubs up to 3m tall. It can smother all vegetation in the herbaceous layer. This weed grows in tropical and subtropical areas.



A dense mat of *Asystasia gangetica* subspecies *micrantha* in flower.



Plants grow in both shade and sun, smothering all understorey herbage.

Visit our website: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds)



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FOR MORE  
INFORMATION:

Contact your local  
council weeds officer  
or district agronomist,  
or telephone the  
NSW Department of  
Primary Industries  
Hotline on 1800 680 244.

## ■ IDENTIFICATION

*Asystasia gangetica* subspecies *micrantha* grows in mats similar to those formed by Wandering Jew, *Tradescantia fluminensis*.

- **Leaves and stems** have scattered hairs. Leaves are paler below.
- **Flowers** 20–25mm long, white outside and inside with some purple blotches in two parallel lines inside.
- **Fruit** 30–31mm long, guitar shaped (with neck of guitar attached to stem) and containing four flattened seeds held in place by conspicuous hooks.

## ■ PROPAGATION

Plants spread by seed and/or rhizomes. The seeds are dispersed explosively from drying capsules but long distance dispersal is generally by man. Stems root at each node.

## ■ CONTROL

Seedlings can be removed by hand and bagged for disposal ensuring no rhizomes are left as these can develop into new infestations.

For herbicide control, contact your Council Weeds Officer or NSW Department of Primary Industries.

*P. Gorbam, Regional Coordinator (Weeds)*

*J. Hosking, Entomologist*

*NSW Department of Primary Industries*

*(Photographs: P Gorbam, unless indicated otherwise)*



*Plants produce roots at nodes and can grow from seeds or pieces of root*

## report this form of chinese violet:

This weed may have been introduced as a garden ornamental. If you have seen this plant, please report it to your Council Weeds Officer or NSW Department of Primary Industries.