

Colubrina asiatica

lather leaf



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Appearance: Glabrous, evergreen, scrambling shrub with diffuse, slender branches to 5 m (16 ft) long; in older plants, stems to 15 m (49 ft) long.

Leaves: Alternate, with slender petioles to 2 cm (3/4 in) long; blades oval, shiny dark green above, 4-9 cm (1.6-3.5 in) long and 2.5-5 cm (1-2 in) wide, with toothed margins and producing a thin lather when crushed and rubbed in water.

Flowers: Small, greenish white, in short branched, few-flowered clusters at leaf axils; each with a nectar disc, 5 sepals, 5 hooded petals, and 5 stamens.

Fruit: A globose capsule, green and fleshy at first and turning brown upon drying, about 8 mm (1/3 in) wide, with 3 grayish seeds.

Ecological threat:

Forms a thick mat, growing over and shading out native vegetation. Invades marly coastal ridges, tropical hammocks, buttonwood and mangrove forests, tidal marshes and disturbed coastal road-sides. Threatens a number of rare, listed native plant species. FLEPPC Category I



Distribution: SW, SE

Field Notations

COLUASIA/COAS3

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>