

Calico Flower

Aristolochia littoralis syn. *A. elegans*
(Parodi) Aristolochiaceae



Biology

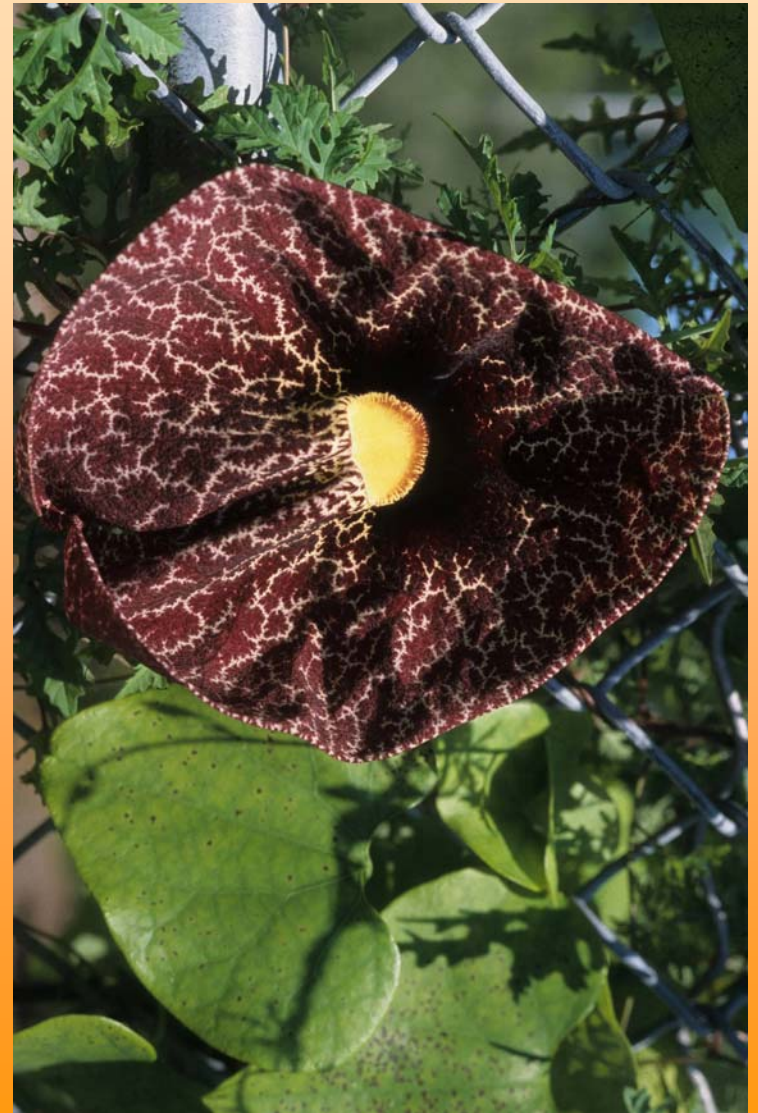


- Also known as calico vine
- Evergreen, climbing vine
- Native to Brazil
- Used in herbal preparations for ailments
- However, plants are highly toxic containing aristolochic acid

Background

Economic Uses

- Ornamental vine
- Colorful and unique pipe-shaped flowers



Distribution



- Naturalized in areas of north and central Florida
 - Generally as a direct escape from cultivation
- However, seed are winged and could invade non-disturbed sites

Impacts



- Category II invasive species (FLEPPC)
 - Limited spread into undisturbed sites
- Weighs down native plants, smothers and causes collapse under the vegetative mass
- Above and below ground biomass, perennial rootstocks

Identification

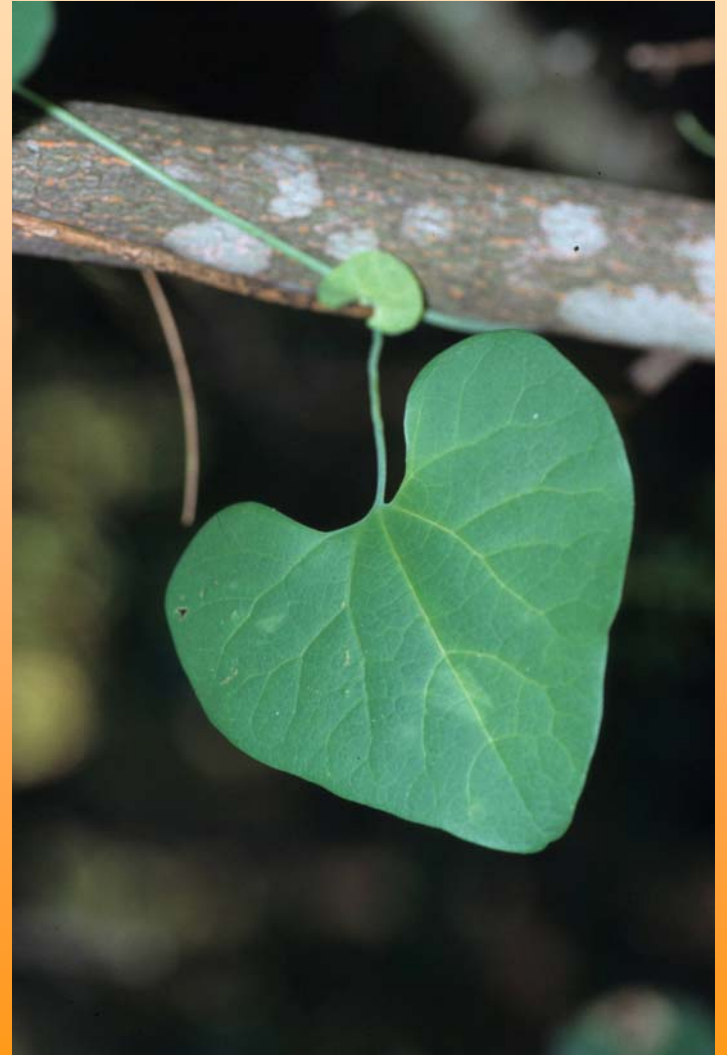
Mature Plant

- Climbing vine, evergreen/perennial
- Grows 10 to 15 feet in length
- Slender woody to wiry stems that tightly coil around stationary objects



Leaves

- Alternately arranged
- Broadly cordate
 - 3 to 4 inches long
 - 2 to 4 inches wide



Flowers

- Dark blackish purple in color
- Tubular shape, flared at mouth
- Nearly 3 inches
- Odor similar to rotting meat – attract pollinators



- Seed pod is a dehiscent capsule with winged seeds

Management

Preventative

Cultural

Mechanical

Biological

Chemical

Preventative



1. Limit planting as an ornamental
2. Remove existing plants, including resprouts and before seeds are produced

Cultural



1. Alternative landscape plants to replace calico flower
2. Programs to educate homeowners about the problems associated with this plant and proper identification
3. Maintain good ground cover and mixture of plant species to reduce establishment

Biological



1. There are no known biological control agents available for calico flower management in Florida or the southeastern U.S.

Mechanical



1. Hand pull young seedlings, including all roots, repeated pulling for resprouts
2. Cutting or mowing vines at ground level is effective, but must repeat

Chemical



1. Use a basal bark application of triclopyr at 100% solution at the base of the vine, close to the root as possible; *do not cut vines*
2. Retreatment likely to control regrowth and vines missed in initial application



Useful Links

- Floridata Homepage:
http://www.floridata.com/main_fr.cfm?state=Welcome&viewsrc=welcome.htm
- University of Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants:
<http://aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu/welcome.html>
- University of Florida's Cooperative Extension Electronic Data Information Source: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/index.html>

Useful Links

- The Plant Conservation Alliance's Alien Plant Working Group. Weeds Gone Wild: Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas: <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/index.htm>
- Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (PIER). Plant Threats to Pacific Ecosystems: <http://www.hear.org/pier/threats.htm>
- Invasive Plants of the Eastern United States: <http://www.invasive.org>

Literature Cited

Langeland, K.A. and K. Craddock Burks. 1998. Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas. IFAS Publication SP 257. University of Florida, Gainesville. 165 pp