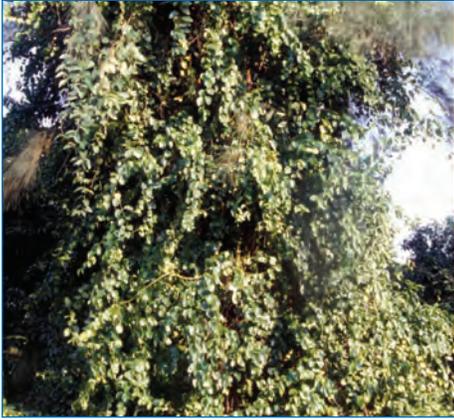


Jasminum fluminense Vell.



Common Name: Brazilian jasmine, Azores jasmine

Synonymy: *J. bahiense* DC.; *J. azoricum* L. misapplied

Origin: Tropical west Africa

Botanical Description: Evergreen, climbing, woody vine, with young stems densely hairy and mature stems glabrous. Leaves opposite, trifoliate, leaf and leaflets stalked; terminal leaflet larger, to 7 cm (4 in) long, with a stalk to 5 cm (2 in) long; leaflets broadly ovate, pubescent above and below, with pointed tips. Flowers white, quite fragrant, opening at night, in broad, branched clusters at leaf axils; petals fused into a narrow, slightly curved tube to 2.5 cm (1 in) long, with 5-7 terminal lobes shorter than the tube, spreading in star-shaped fashion. Fruit a small, fleshy, roundish, black, 2-lobed berry.

Ecological Significance: Introduced into Florida for ornament in the early 1920s. First described from Brazil, but actually introduced there from Africa by Portuguese explorers (Hammer 1996a). Commonly escaped and weedy by the 1960s (Lakela and Craighead 1965, Long and Lakela 1971, Morton 1974). Abounds on fences, power poles, hedges, and other disturbed sites (Morton 1976). Has spread extensively and become a major pest in Florida and in Puerto Rico (Morton 1974). Self-sowing and weedy in cultivated landscapes (Broschat and Meerow 1991). An aggressive, troublesome, difficult-to-control weed (Nelson 1996). Has vigorously

invaded intact, undisturbed hardwood forests in south Florida; can climb high into the tree canopy of mature forests, completely enshrouding native vegetation and reducing native plant diversity (Hammer 1996a).

Distribution: One of 7 species of nonnative jasmines naturalized in Florida. Documented as invading tropical hardwood hammocks and ruderal communities. Herbarium specimens documented from Highlands, St. Lucie, Broward, Monroe, and Miami-Dade counties (Wunderlin and Hansen 2004). Reported in natural areas in Hillsborough and Palm Beach counties (FLEPPC 2005). Listed as a common weed in Puerto Rico and as a weed in the Dominican Republic (Holm et al. 1979). Noted as locally common in Jamaica (Adams 1972). Naturalized in the Bahamas as well, and elsewhere in the New World tropics and subtropics (Correll and Correll 1982).

Life History: Restricted to areas with average minimum temperatures above 1.7°C (35°F) (Broschat and Meerow 1991). Easy to grow; propagated in cultivation from cuttings; may not tolerate soggy root zones (Chabot 1952). Will grow near coasts where protected from salt spray (Menninger 1964). Flowers all year, most abundantly in spring. Ripe fruit found from early summer into early winter (Hammer 1996a). Seeds dispersed by birds and raccoons, with dense plots of seedlings often seen arising from raccoon droppings (Hammer 1996a).