Chilean glory creeper

Eccremocarpus scaber

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Family
Bignoniaceae (trumpet-creeper)

Also known as
Chilean glory flower

Where is it originally from?
Chilean Andes

Photo: Trevor James

What does it look like?
Twining, much-branched perennial vine that is woody near the base and evergreen or deciduous in colder climates. Thin leaves that alternate on the stem are each comprised of light green leaflets (2 cm long, 2 on younger branchlets, 3-7 leaflets on older branchlets) that are variable in size and shape but are generally oval and with prominent veins. Tendrils have small hooks to grip support. Numerous tubular flowers (Sept-May) with rounded petals (2.5 cm long) that are slightly rolled back at the tip and are a showy orange-red outside and orange within, are followed by glossy, oval, slightly wrinkled fruit capsules (4.5 x 2 cm) containing black seeds with a prominent wing.

Photo: Carolyn Lewis

Why is it weedy?
Grows rapidly, particularly in warmer areas, and produces abundant and viable seed.

How does it spread?
Seed is wind-spread, and also spreads by stem fragments.

What damage does it do?
Can smother smoother shrubs and small plants, preventing growth and regeneration of native species.

Which habitats is it likely to invade?
Forest edges, riparian areas, open scrub, roadsides and waste areas. Tolerates part shade, prefers open, sunny, well-drained areas.

Photo: Trevor James

What can I do to get rid of it?
1. Physical removal (all year round) - Hand pull seedlings or dig out entire plant. Leave on site to rot down.
2. Cut and paste - Cut the stem as close to the ground as possible and cover the entire stump with herbicide as soon as possible after cutting. Apply either glyphosate gel (400g/l strength) or picloram gel (43g/L strength). Do not use picloram gel near desirable plants or over wetlands.
3. Foliar spray - Apply Glyphosate (360 g/L active ingredient) herbicide at a rate of 20ml/L or to cover entire plant. Note: overspray will kill other (desirable) plants.

CAUTION: When using any herbicide or pesticide, PLEASE READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY to ensure that all instructions and directions for the purchase, use and storage of the product, are followed and adhered to.