

# Mickey Mouse plant

*Ochna serrulata*

## Family

Ochnaceae (ochna)

## Also known as

Mickey mouse bush, bird's eye bush

## Where is it originally from?

Southern Africa

## What does it look like?

Erect, evergreen shrub (<2 m tall) with slightly rough stems finely spotted with light brown. Spirally arranged, narrow and oblong leaves (<5 cm long) with a wavy surface and have finely toothed edges are pinkish-bronze when young, and mature to glossy green. Five-petalled, fragrant yellow flowers appear in spring (3 cm diameter) which drop off as the berry-like, spherical glossy green fruit develops attached to each of five red sepals. Fruit ripens from green to black (Nov-Jan), with each fruit containing one oval green seed.

## Why is it weedy?

Competes with native plants for space, sunlight, water and nutrients, and produces abundant fruit.

## How does it spread?

Seeds are spread by birds.

## What damage does it do?

Colonises areas quickly and develops dense shrub cover that shades out small native plants.

## Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Forests, shrubland and riparian vegetation in warmer coastal districts.

## What can I do to get rid of it?

Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## What can I do to stop it coming back?

Seed viability is relatively short (up to 1 year).



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Photo: Trevor James



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