

Giant Sensitive Weed

Invasive Species in the Cook Islands



Photo from:
 Cook Islands Biodiversity Database



Photo from:
 Aitutaki NES officer, Bobby Bishop



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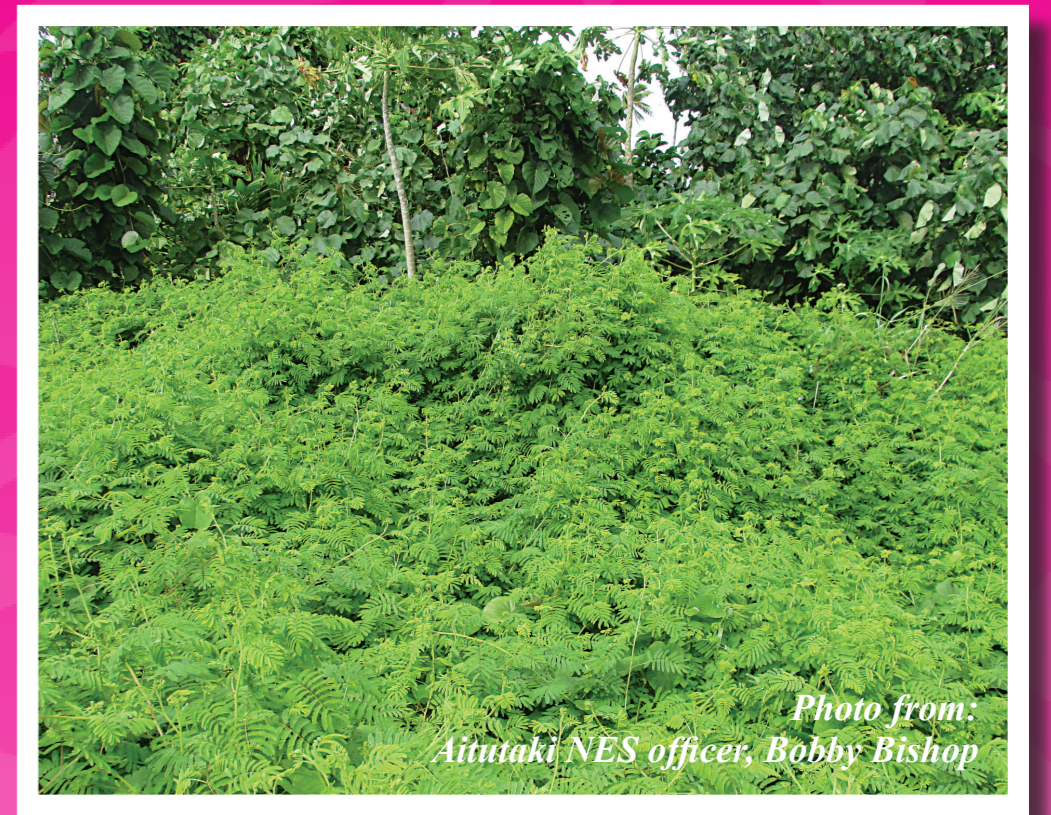


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Scientific name: *Mimosa invisa* Local name: *Pikika 'a Papa 'ā*

General information

The giant sensitive plant is native to Brazil. It is a fast growing, abundantly thorny shrub that can grow anywhere. An introduced weed to the Cook Islands.

Cook Islands status

Giant sensitive plant has been in the Cook Islands since at least 1980s and is only found on the island of Aitutaki.

Key feature

- The leaves are made up of 12 – 30 pairs of small leaflets that fold together when touched.
- Stems are armed with numerous small prickles
- Its pink or purplish flowers are arranged in fluffy round clusters
- Its flat pods contain 3-5 seeded segments that break apart when the fruit is mature

Impact

Giant Sensitive Plant is an aggressive weed which chokes out crops, as well as land used for agriculture. Livestock do not feed or trample on them because of its spiny nature. It tends to smother pastures, its spiny stems producing tangled thickets that can trap animals and can seriously injured humans.

Management

A psyllid has been introduced to Aitutaki in 1994 as a bio-control agent to control the spread of the giant sensitive plant on Aitutaki. Giant sensitive plants bio-control agent feeds on the shoots of the plant affecting the plant growth.

Why it is important to control and prevent further invasion by balloon vines?

Giant sensitive plants can have a major impact on the environment, threatening local endemic and native plants. When spread to other islands giant sensitive plant can hinder access to plantations and forest.

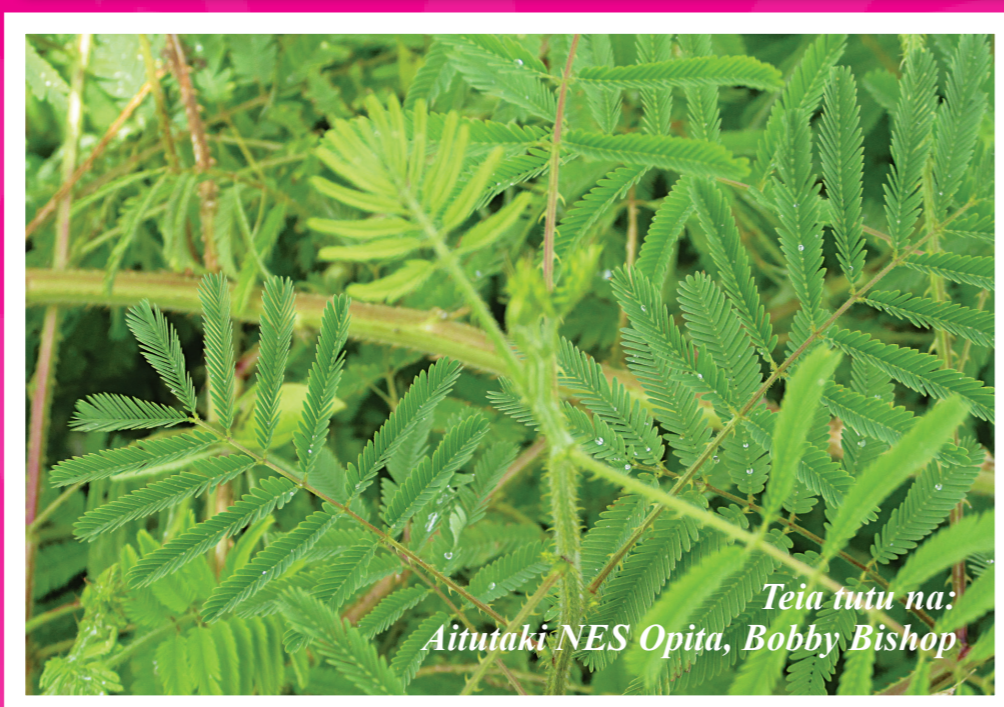
Stop the spread of this plant to other islands of the Cook Islands

Pikika'a Papaā

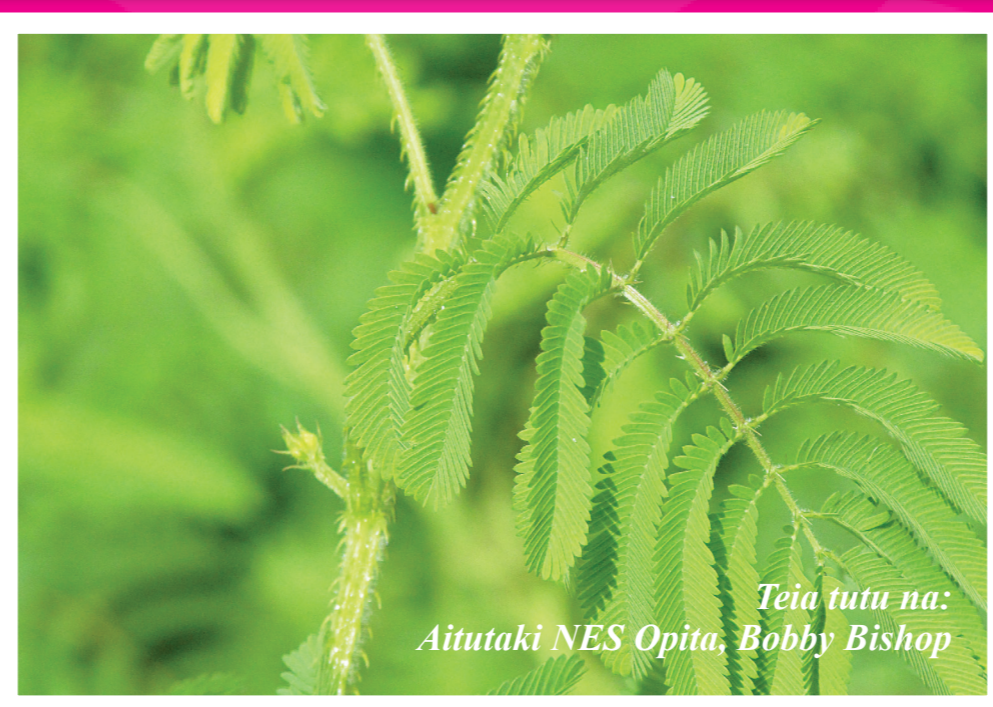
Rakau Kikino tuitarere i te Kuki Airani



Teia tutu na te:
Cook Islands Biodiversity Database



Teia tutu na:
Aitutaki NES Opita, Bobby Bishop



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Scientific name: *Mimosa invisa* English name: **Mimosa**

Eaa teia rakau ko te Pikika'a papaā?

E ngāngā'ere kikino e te viviki i te tupu e te toto'a te pikika'a papaā. E taratara tona atava. Ka tupu aia i tetai uatu ngai. E mea tae kiteakore'ia mai te pikika'a papaā ki te Kuki Airani nei.

No te mataiti 1980 i kitea mua ia ei te pikika'a papaā i roto i te Kuki Airani. Tei runga ua ia Aitutaki te pikika'a papaā i te ngai kitea ia ai.

Akara'anga i te tu o te Pikika'a Papaā

- Te rau o te pikika'a papaā e mea rikiriki kino te reira. E tairua ana teia i runga i te kakau okotai, mei te 12 -30 rau rikiriki. Me amiri me kore pakia ana tona rau ka piri me kore ka moe te reira.
- Ko tona atava e maata te tara rikiriki i runga.
- E tuke uatu rai tona puera tiare. E punupunu mei te mama'u rai te tu, e maratea vareau te kara.
- Tona 'ua e roaroa e te para'a te reira. Mei te 3 – 5 'ua i roto i te reira.

Te manata tana ka rave

Te pikika'a papaā ka tupu aia na runga i tetai uatu ngai, mei te ngai tanutanu, aua tiare, te maunga e te vai atura. E viviki katoa aia i te totoa na roto i teia au ngai, tāmamanatā atu i te tupu'anga o te rakau o teia au ngai nei. E taratara tona rakau te ka riro atu i te arai me kore tāmamanatā i te ara ki te ngai tanutanu. Ka riro katoa tona atava taratara i te mū'ere i te manu mei te puaka e te puakanio. Ka motu me kore ka puta rai to tatou pakiri i tona atava taratara. Ka tāmamanatā katoa aia i te tupu'anga o te au rakau, na roto i te apai'anga i te meitaki mei roto mai i te enua.

Ravenga no te tāmamate me kore akaiti i te toto'a'anga o te Pikika'a papaā

E manganui te au ravenga tei tamata ia no te tāmamate me kore akaiti atu i te tupu'anga o te pikika'a papaā mei te tipūpū me kore paripari atu 'anga i tona au atava, me kore kiriti atu'anga i te tumu mei roto mai i te one pera katoa te ta'anga'anga 'anga i te vairakau tāmamate tita. Kare ra te pikika'a papaā i ngaro takiri ana.

I te mataiti 1994 kua apaina ia mai tetai manumanu te ka riro atu i te tāmamanatā i te tupu'anga o te pikika'a papaā. Na teia manumanu nei e rako ana te tupu'anga o te pikika'a papaā na roto i te kai'anga i te kao e te rau ou o te pikika'a papaā.

Eaa tatou ka matakite ei i te Pikika'a papaā?

Tei runga ua te pikika'a papaā ia Aitutaki e ka anoano ia tatou kia kore tatou e toto'a atu i te reira ki tetai enua ke i roto i te Kuki Airani. Ka tāmamanatā atu aia i te turanga o te rakau enua, pera tikai te tupu'anga, e te piri'anga o te au apinga ora mei tetai ki tetai. Ka riro katoa te pikika'a papaā i te tāmamanatā e te takore takiri atu i te au katiri rakau tupuna i runga i to tatou enua.

Auraka e toto'a atu te Pikika'a papaā ki te Pa Enua.