

Ludwigia prostrata

Family: Onagraceae

Species: *Ludwigia prostrata* Roxb.

Common Names: heusenkraut (German)

Synonyms:

Ludwigia prostrata Buch.-Ham.

Ludwigia diffusa Buch.-Ham.

Ludwigia diffusa Hem.

Ludwigia fruticulosa Bume

Jussiaea prostrata L.

Nematopyxis fruticulosa Miq.

Nematopyxis prostrate Miq.

Nematopyxis pusilla Miq.

Bayer Code: LUDPR

Species Description: *Ludwigia prostrata* is a semi-aquatic annual species up to 60 cm high, often reddish-tinged. Leaves narrowly elliptic up to 13 cm long by 1-3 cm wide, acute at the tip and cuneate at the base, on petioles 1-2 cm long, glabrous or with a few hairs on the veins. Sepals 4 or 5, deltoid, about 2 mm long by 1 mm wide. Petals also 4 or 5, yellow, narrowly spatulate, about 2 mm long. Stamens 4, style about 1 mm long. Capsule glabrous, 4-5 locular, elongated 1-3 cm long, mostly 4-angled, with 5-lobed calyx persistent at the apex. Seeds in one row per cell, pale brown, speckled or with darker transverse stripes, ovoid, 1-2 mm long.

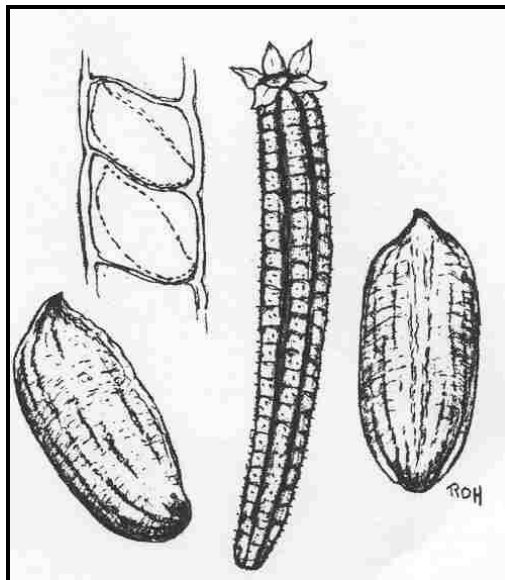


Figure 1. *Ludwigia prostrata* from Reed (1977)

Distribution: *Ludwigia prostrata* is native in Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Taiwan, and Vietnam) (Hoch and Boufford, 1991; Holm et al., 1979; Moody, 1989; Reed 1977).

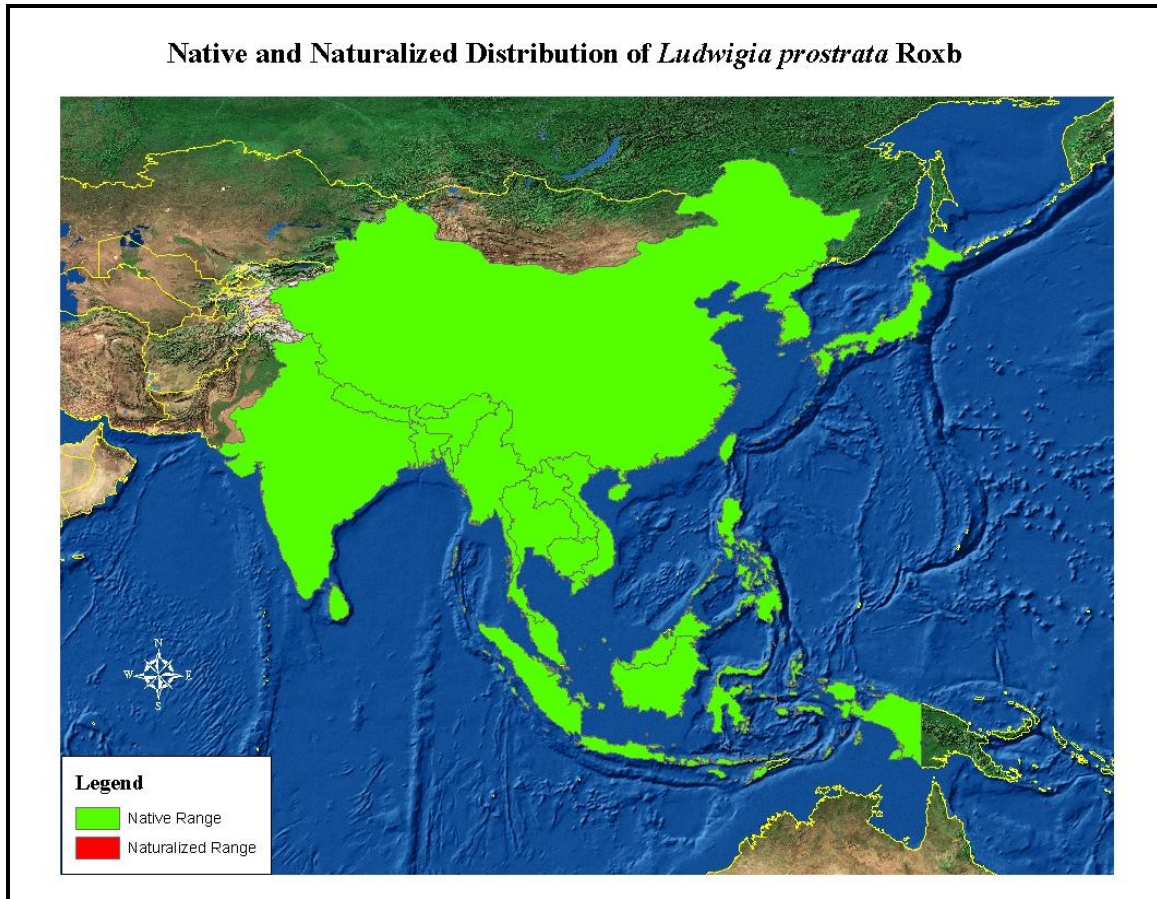


Figure 2. By Glenn Fowler, USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST, 2002 (Fowler, 2002)

Biology and Ecology: *Ludwigia prostrata* is a sub-tropical semi-aquatic plant of river banks, wet places and rice fields. It flowers between August and October in Japan. Seeds do not show dormancy (Ku et al., 1996). In south China it is host to the fungus *Pseudocercospora oenotherae* (Xiang, 2002).

Possible Pathways to the United States: Because *Ludwigia prostrata* is a weed of rice, there is a risk of accidental introduction with crop seed or agricultural produce.

Adverse Impact: *Ludwigia prostrata* is listed by Holm et al. (1979) as a “serious” weed in Japan, and a “principal” weed of Taiwan. It is also among the most damaging weeds of rice in southern China (Wang, 2000) and in both direct-sown and transplanted rice in Korea (Kim et al., 1997; Kim and Pyon, 1998; Kim, 1999). *Ludwigia prostrata* poses a significant threat to rice crops and wetlands in sub-tropical regions of the United States.

Literature Cited:

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