



# Invasive Species Compendium

## Caribbean News

April 2014



*A. cordifolia* smothering vegetation at Ulupalakua, Maui. ©Forest Starr & Kim Starr-2001 - CC BY-3.0.

### New Datasheets Prioritised by Caribbean ISC Workshop Participants

Since the last newsletter in January 2014, five new datasheets of particular importance to the Caribbean have been published:

- [Amphisbaena fuliginosa](#) (speckled worm lizard)
- [Anredera cordifolia](#) (Madeira vine)
- [Datura ferox](#) (fierce thornapple)
- [Opuntia monacantha](#) (common prickly pear)
- [Pantherophis guttatus](#) (corn snake)

Datasheets are written and reviewed by subject specialists.

This newsletter's featured datasheet was written by Nick Pasiecznik.

### Feature Datasheet: *Anredera cordifolia* (Madeira vine)

Few plants are able to 'destroy a rainforest', but *A. cordifolia* is one. This succulent climbing plant is native to South America but has been introduced around the world, from Africa to the Caribbean to the Pacific. It has become very invasive in its introduced range, smothering both ground vegetation and trees, restricting light and preventing the germination of native plants. With its fleshy leaves and thick aerial tubers it can even grow heavy enough to bring down whole trees. It has proved very difficult to control, but recent advances in biological control have shown potential following the release of the first agent in Australia in 2011. You can access the newly-written and peer-reviewed datasheet on *A. cordifolia* [here](#).



## Datasheet Reviews

Datasheets in the Compendium are periodically reviewed by experts for up-dating and improvement. The following datasheets are relevant to the Caribbean and have been recently reviewed by experts:

[Ardisia elliptica](#) (shoebutton ardisia)

[Calotropis procera](#) (apple of sodom)

[Oreochromis niloticus](#) (Nile tilapia)

[Rattus rattus](#) (black rat)

## Feature Review: *Rattus rattus*

The well-known invasive black rat is native to the Indian sub-continent but has now spread worldwide. Although commonly known as the black rat it can be black or grey and may have a cream-white belly and typically large hairless ears. *R. rattus* poses a threat to many species of wildlife and has directly caused or contributed to the extinction of many birds, small mammals, reptiles, invertebrates and plants, especially on islands. It is very agile and often frequents tree tops searching for food and nesting there in cavities, or less frequently in bunches of leaves and twigs. You can access the fully-reviewed datasheet on *R. rattus* [here](#).

Would you like to review a species datasheet? Contact the Compendia Editorial team using the email below.



Adult black rat (*Rattus rattus*) Mission Canyon, Santa Barbara, California, USA. July, 2004 ©Larry Jon Friesen-2004

## EU-ISC Project Progress Worldwide

Since 2012, 62 new ISC datasheets, which were specially selected by EU-sponsored workshop participants, have been added to the Compendium.

## We need your help!

1. We would be grateful for your input, particularly if you could give some information on how you have been using the Compendium; has it been useful as a source of information, or for repurposing to produce training materials, etc.?
2. Have you circulated information about the Compendium to work colleagues or associates? Let us know, how was it received? If you would like promotional or training material to help with this, we can provide it.
3. Would you be able contribute to the Compendium by reviewing any species datasheets? Get in touch!
4. Do you have any ideas for this newsletter? How could it be more useful, or interesting to you?

**Please send your ideas and feedback to**

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