



# Invasive Species Compendium

## Caribbean News

January 2014

### New Datasheets Prioritised by Caribbean ISC Workshop Participants

Since the last newsletter in July 2013, seven new datasheets of particular importance to the Caribbean have been published:

[\*Anolis extremus\* \(Barbados anole\)](#)  
[\*Anolis wattsi\* \(Watts' anole\)](#)  
[\*Asclepias curassavica\* \(bloodflower\)](#)  
[\*Boerhavia diffusa\* \(red spiderling\)](#)  
[\*Cleome rutidosperma\* \(consumption weed\)](#)  
[\*Physalis angulata\* \(cutleaf groundcherry\)](#)  
[\*Syngonium podophyllum\* \(arrowhead vine\)](#)

In addition, a further eight invasive plant datasheets have been written by Julissa Rojas-Sandoval and Pedro Acevedo-Rodríguez at the Smithsonian Institution.

### Feature Datasheet: *Physalis angulata*



[\*Physalis angulata\*](#) (cutleaf groundcherry, husk tomato); at Mokuauia, Oahu ©Forest Starr & Kim Starr-2005 - CC BY-3.0.

This weedy herbaceous plant from America is found in many Caribbean countries including

Cuba and Barbados, where it is native but not invasive. It is, however, recorded as invasive in Trinidad and Tobago where it is also native and can be the host of tomato bacterial spot *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vesicatoria*, as well as viruses and root nematodes. More information on this invasive plant can be found [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:

[\*Adenantha pavonina\* \(red-bead tree\)](#)  
[\*Casuarina equisetifolia\* \(casuarina\)](#)  
[\*Crassocephalum crepidioides\* \(redflower ragleaf\)](#)  
[\*Delonix regia\* \(flamboyant\)](#)  
[\*Eichhornia crassipes\* \(water hyacinth\)](#)  
[\*Hedychium coronarium\* \(white butterfly ginger lily\)](#)  
[\*Liberibacter asiaticus\* \(Asian greening\)](#)  
[\*Megathyrsus maximus\* \(Guinea grass\)](#)  
[\*Melaleuca quinquenervia\* \(peaperbark tree\)](#)  
[\*Miconia calvescens\* \(miconia\)](#)  
[\*Mimosa pigra\* \(catclaw mimosa\)](#)  
[\*Molothrus bonariensis\* \(shiny cowbird\)](#)  
[\*Oreochromis niloticus\* \(Nile tilapia\)](#)  
[\*Parthenium hysterophorus\* \(parthenium weed\)](#)  
[\*Pistia stratiotes\* \(water lettuce\)](#)  
[\*Senna siamea\* \(yellow cassia\)](#)  
[\*Sida acuta\* \(sida\)](#)  
[\*Spathodea campanulata\* \(African tulip tree\)](#)  
[\*Sphagneticola trilobata\* \(wedelia\)](#)  
[\*Syzygium jambos\* \(rose apple\)](#)  
[\*Tradescantia zebrina\* \(wandering jew\)](#)



## Feature Review: *Molothrus bonariensis*

The shiny cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) is a brood parasite and relies on other birds to incubate its eggs and rear its chicks. It has expanded its range across the Caribbean and can now be found in Puerto Rico, Barbados, the Bahamas and elsewhere, where it is thought to be negatively impacting several vulnerable bird species. The yellow-shouldered blackbird (*Agelaius xanthomus*), the Puerto Rican vireo (*Vireo latimeri*) and the Saint Lucia oriole (*Icterus laudabilis*) are all threatened by the shiny cowbird.



A male shiny cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*). Image released into the Public Domain by its author Marina Torres, 2007.

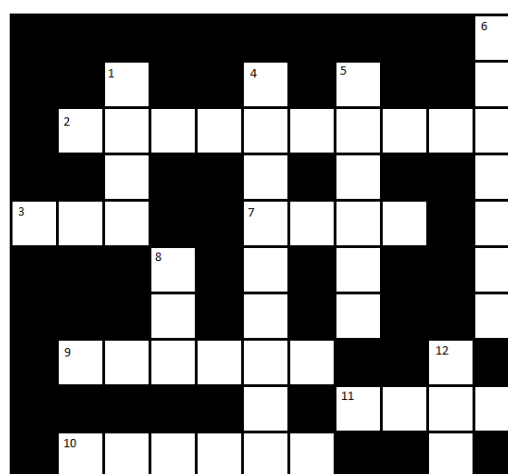
You can access the fully-reviewed ISC datasheet on the shiny cowbird [here](#).

Would you be willing to contribute to the Compendium by reviewing datasheets? With prior agreement, a fee is offered for a full review of an existing datasheet.

## EU-ISC Project Progress Worldwide

Over the course of 2013, 49 new EU-ISC datasheets, which were specially selected by ENRTP workshop participants, have been added to the Compendium. A further 20 existing datasheets of particular relevance to the Caribbean have been reviewed by experts during 2013.

## Incredible Crossword



1. The invasive moth *Paysandia archon* is a serious pest of what type of tree? (4)
2. Which mostly harmless invasive spider threatened to bring the UK to its knees earlier this year? (5,5)
3. *Ophiostoma ulma* was highly damaging to which type of tree? (3)
4. 'Floating \_\_\_\_\_', the common English name of the invasive plant *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* (9)
5. The invasive freshwater crustacean *Dikerogammarus villosus* is also known as the '\_\_\_\_\_ shrimp' (6)
6. Invasive brood parasite threatening endemic Caribbean birds: 'shiny \_\_\_\_\_' (7)
7. From which African river does the invasive tilapia *Oreochromis niloticus* get its common name? (4)
8. 'Slender \_\_\_\_\_', the common name of *Avena barbata*, an invasive plant in North American and Australia (3)
9. The aphid *Aphis gossypii* is an invasive pest of which economically important plant? (6)



10. '\_\_\_\_\_ pod rot', the devastating disease of cocoa caused by the invasive basidiomycete pathogen *Moniliophthora roreri* (6)

11. 'Common \_\_\_\_\_', the common name of *Acridotheres tristis*, an invasive bird closely associated with humans (4)

12. *Anoplolepis gracilipes*, the 'yellow crazy \_\_\_\_\_', an arthropod invasive on many Pacific islands (3)

## 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

[compend@cabi.org](mailto:compend@cabi.org)

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS (in the ISC of course!) but if you get stuck

1. Ant 2. Myra 3. Frosty 4. Cotton 5. False widow 6. Elm 7. Pennywort 8. Nile 9. Cowbird 10. Palm 11. Killer 12. Pennywort