

Lygodium microphyllum

OLD WORLD CLIMBING FERN

Schizaeaceae

Common Synonyms: *none*

FLEPPC Category: 1

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: Yes

IFAS Assessment

North PROHIBITED

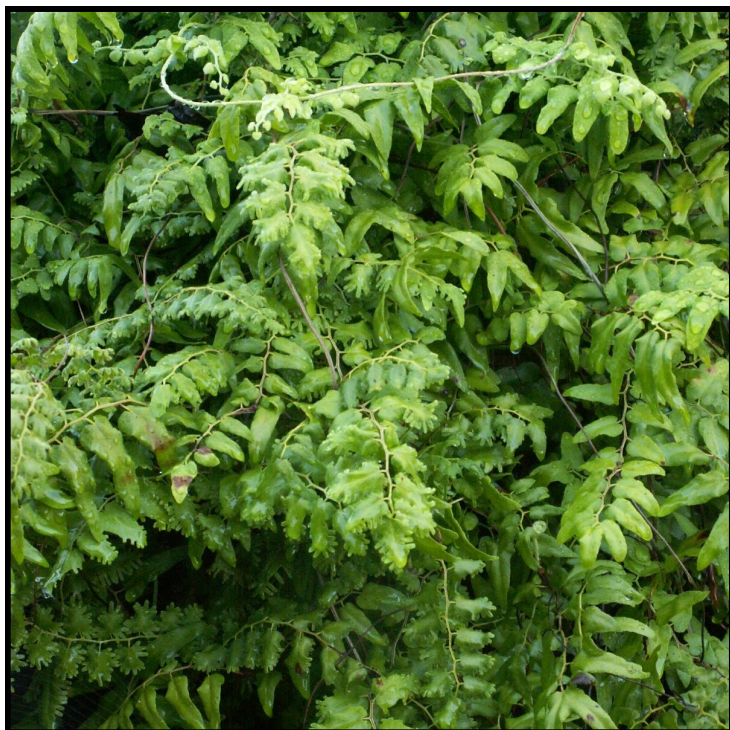
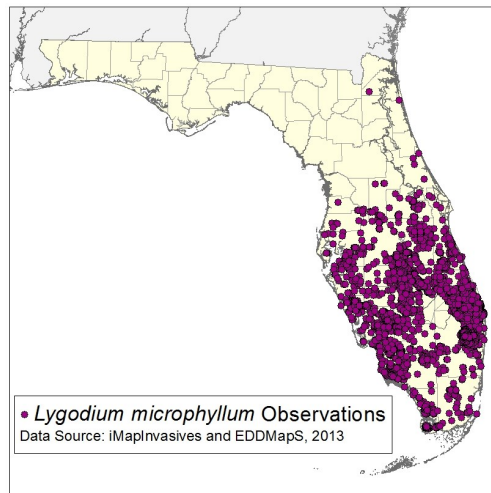
Central PROHIBITED

South CAUTION

USDA Hardiness Zone: 9a-11

Growth Habit: Vine (Fern)

Origin: Africa to Southeast Asia,
South Pacific, Australia



FNAI

Description: Fern with dark brown, wiry rhizomes and climbing, twining fronds of indeterminate growth, to 30 m long; main rachis (leaf stalk above petiole) wiry, stemlike. Leafy branches off main rachis (constituting the pinnae) once compound, oblong in overall outline, 5-12 cm long. Leaflets (pinnules) usually unlobed, stalked, articulate (leaving wiry stalks when detached), glabrous below. Fertile leaflets of similar size, fringed with tiny lobes of enrolled leaf tissue covering the sporangia along the leaf margin.

Note: May be confused with similar *Lygodium japonicum*, whose pinnae are often twice compound.

Habitat: Hardwood hammocks, mesic flatwoods, forested swamps, wet flatwoods, hydric hammocks, floodplain forests, strand swamps, and ruderal communities.

Comments: Established in south and central zones, possibly to limit of cold tolerance.

Florida Introduction Date: Before 1958.

Control Methods:

Chemical: Foliar: For ground applications, cut plants that grow high into trees; thoroughly spray foliage to wet with 1%-2% glyphosate, 2% triclopyr amine, or equivalent of 1-2 ounces metsulfuron 60% DF/100 gallon diluent; light infestations use 2%-4% glyphosate. For aerial application, 7.5 pints glyphosate (isopropylane salt) or 2 ounces metsulfuron 60% DF in sufficient volume and using spray pattern to maximize coverage (IFAS).

Useful Resources:

- Langeland, K.A., H.M. Cherry, C.M. McCormick, K.C. Burks. 2008. Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas-Second Edition. IFAS Publication SP 257. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- Langeland, K.A., J.A. Ferrell, B. Sellers, G.E. MacDonald, and R.K. Stocker. 2011. Integrated management of non-native plants in natural areas of Florida. EDIS publication SP 242. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- Dave's Garden. 2013. PlantFiles: Small-leaved climbing fern, *Lygodium microphyllum*. <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/31878/>. Accessed on December 11, 2013.