Perennial climber, with large funnel-shaped blue flowers.

Scientific name: *Ipomoea indica* (Burm.) Merr.
Common names: blue morning glory, blue dawn flower
Family: *Convolvulaceae*
Status in Portugal: invasive species (listed in the annex I of Decreto-Lei n° 565/99, 21 December)
Risk Assessment score: (in development)
Last update: 08/07/2014

**How to recognise it**

Perennial climber up to 15 m.

Leaves: entire to three-lobed, acuminate, largely ovate to cordate, with 9-18 cm.

Flowers: tapered, large, with 6-8.5 cm, very flashy, frequently blue, but sometimes white, pink or multi-coloured, generally becoming pink when they wither.

Fruits: capsules with 10-13 mm diameter, with 4-6 seeds inside.

Flowering: June to November.

**Similar species**
**Ipomoea indica (blue morning glory)**

*Ipomoea purpurea* (L.) Roth has some similarities, but it’s an annual herb and with entire leaves. Its flowers may be grossly mistaken by violet-flowered petunias (*Petunia integrifolia* (Hook) Schinz & Thell), but its plant type and leaves are much larger than the latter one’s.

**Characteristics that aid invasion**

It reproduces vegetatively through stem fragments that root easily. The stems sprout vigorously after being cut.

Sometimes, but not often, it reproduces by seed.

**ORIGIN AND DISTRIBUTION**

**Native distribution area**

Tropical area of South America, Asia and Hawaii.

**Distribution in Portugal**

Mainland Portugal (Douro Litoral, Beira Litoral, Estremadura, Ribatejo, Baixo Alentejo, Algarve), Azores archipelago (all islands), Madeira archipelago (island of Madeira).

**Other places where the species is invasive**

South Africa, North America (USA), Australia, New Zealand, some Pacific islands and other countries of the Mediterranean basin.

**Introduction reasons**

Ornamental reasons.

**Preferential invasion environments**

Disturbed habitats (hedges, quarries, abandoned constructions, etc.), slopes where it was planted and under trees or other vegetation. In natural habitats, the problem is mainly by the watercourses, where it threatens riparian vegetation.

**IMPACTS**

**Impacts on ecosystems**

It forms impenetrable mats that smother trees, shrubs and grasses of other species, leading to their death and preventing the development of native vegetation.

**Natura 2000 network habitats more subject to impacts**

- *Salix alba* and *Populus alba* galleries (92A0).

**CONTROL**

Controlling an invasive species demands a well-planned management, which includes the determination of the invaded area, identifying the causes of invasion, assessing the impacts, defining the intervention
priorities, selecting the adequate control methodologies and their application. Afterwards it is fundamental to monitor the efficiency of the methodologies and recuperation of the intervened area as to perform, whenever necessary, the follow-up control.

The control methodologies used for *Ipomoea indica* include:

**Physical control**

**Hand pulling** (preferential methodology). In more compact substrates, hand pulling should be made during the rainy season to facilitate the removal of the root system. It should be guaranteed that no large fragments are left in the ground; these would root easily and originate new invasion foci. Every unpulled material should be removed from the location for later destruction.

**Physical + chemical control**

**Cut stump method.** Cut the stems as close to the ground as possible and apply herbicide immediately afterwards (active substance: glyphosate) to the cut surface. Some authors have noticed that since the sprouts are more sensitive to the herbicide, this chemical should be applied to them when they reach 60 cm in height.

**Controlo químico**

**Foliar application of herbicide:** applied in extensive areas that are invaded by the species. Spray with herbicide (active substance: glyphosate) limiting its application to the target species.

For additional information, visit the webpage [www.invasoras.pt](http://www.invasoras.pt) and/or contact us at invader@uc.pt.

**REFERENCES**


