

WEEDS OF GUAM

Ruellia tuberosa

Weed #A2023-2

Acanthaceae



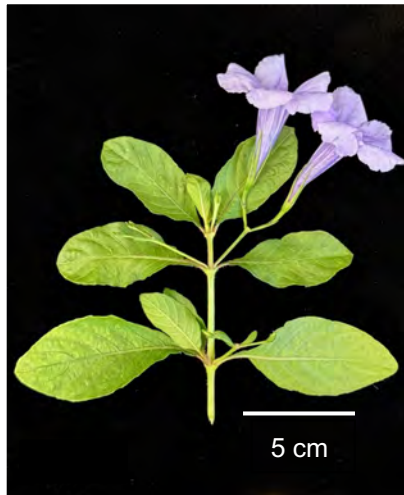
Ruellia tuberosa along roadside



Corolla tube with a darkened center



Didynamous stamens and style



Axillary inflorescence and opposite leaves



Tuberous roots

SCIENTIFIC NAME:	<i>Ruellia tuberosa</i> L.
COMMON NAME:	Meadow Weed, Minnieroot, Cracker Plant, Popping Pod.
SYNONYMS:	<i>Dipteracanthus clandestinus</i> (L.) C.Presl, <i>Ruellia lysimachia</i> Nees, <i>Ruellia paniculata</i> Scop. ex Nees, <i>Ruellia tuberosa</i> var. <i>humilis</i> M.Gómez, <i>Ruellia picta</i> G.Lodd, <i>Ruellia clandestina</i> L.
DISTRIBUTION:	Widely cultivated or naturalized in Southern USA, Central America and north of South America. Introduced to Africa, Asia and Pacific islands.

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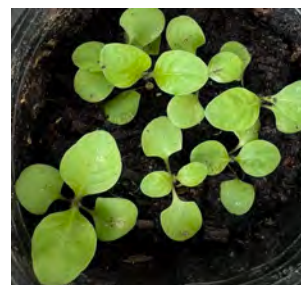
Young fruit with filiform calyx



Open seed capsule



Seeds



Seedlings (14-day old)



Close-up of seed

FORM:	Erect, branched herb.
ROOT:	Tuberous roots, elongate, fusiform.
STEM:	Quadrangular, deeply grooved, greenish to darkish purple, pubescent in younger parts, glabrous in older parts.
LEAVES:	Simple, blade obovate to oblanceolate, apex subacute to broadly rounded, margin undulate to approximately entire, surface glabrous or with scattered broad glossy hair along veins; oppositely arranged.
INFLORESCENCE:	3-flowered axillary dichasial cyme (or 1-flowered with two undeveloping buds), peduncle subglabrous to sparsely pubescent.
FLOWER:	Calyx: 5-lobed, filiform; corolla: mauve to bluish purple, 5-lobed, lobes orbicular to transversely elliptic, corolla diameter 4-5 cm, corolla tube narrowly funnel shaped; stamens: 4, white, included in throat, strongly didynamous, anthers not overlapping, filaments fused only at base; style: white to purple; ovary: glabrous, superior.
FRUIT:	Spindle-shaped dehiscent capsule, 2.0-2.5 cm long, brown, containing 14-34 seeds.
SEED:	Orbicular, brown, pubescent.
HABITAT:	Occur in roadsides and disturbed fields.
PROPOGATION:	Seeds, stem cuttings.
USES:	Herbal, ornamental.
MISCELLANEOUS:	Can be an invasive weed with rapid seed distribution in a habitat; well developed roots are difficult to remove.

References:

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