



Baby pepper or Coral berry

Rivinia humilis



The problem

This plant is native to South America, and is listed as a weed in several countries around the world. In Australia, it is found at a number of localities on the east coast, primarily in rainforest and vine scrub. It is usually seen along the edges of rainforest and disturbed sites, where it displays a preference for shaded areas. Following disturbance of the natural vegetation, this species interferes with the re-establishment of native rainforest plants. Birds are the main dispersal method as they eat the fruit and spread the seeds. This species germinates readily from seed.

Description

Baby pepper is an erect, short-lived herb that grows up to about 1 m tall. Stems are quite woody at the base. The plant is supported by a tap root and a lateral root system. Flowers occur in the upper leaf stalks of mature plants. These flowers vary in colour from white to pink with a greenish tinge, and are grouped in narrow spike-like formations. Leaves are up to 10 cm long, lance-shaped and bright green in colour. They grow in alternate formation along the stem and taper to a pointed tip. When damaged or crushed, the leaves emit an unpleasant odour. Fruits occur in the form of round, bright red berries. Each berry contains a single seed. These berries may occur at any time during the year.

Management

Individual plants should be hand pulled and placed in a large garbage bag. Take care to remove seed heads and fruits to minimise new growth. Bags of plant material may be left in the sun for a period of weeks, to allow the green matter to rot. Bags should then be buried at an appropriate Council landfill site. Control should ideally be performed before the plants have the chance to form berries or flowers.

Declaration details

Baby pepper or Coral berry is not a declared plant under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, however, plants that are not declared under state legislation may have control requirements imposed by local governments.

Further information

Further information is available from the vegetation management/weed control/environmental staff at your local government.

TABLE 1 – HERBICIDES REGISTERED FOR THE CONTROL OF BABY PEPPER OR CORAL BERRY

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status
Spot spray	fluroxypyr (200 g/L)	5 mL per 1L water or 5 to 10 L/ha	PERMIT 7485

Read the label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with the directions on the label.

It is a requirement of a permit that all persons using the products covered by this off-label permit comply with the details and conditions listed in the permit. In addition read the herbicide label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with label directions. The above permit can be used by pest control operations, members of environmental groups such as Bushcare, Catchment Care, Coast Care and people employed as or working under supervision of local and state government officers.

