

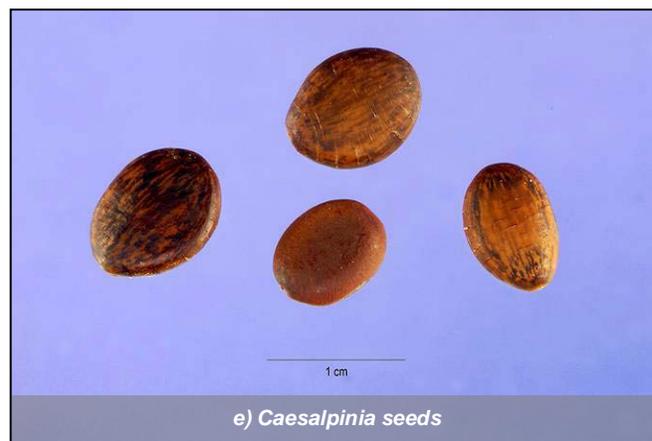
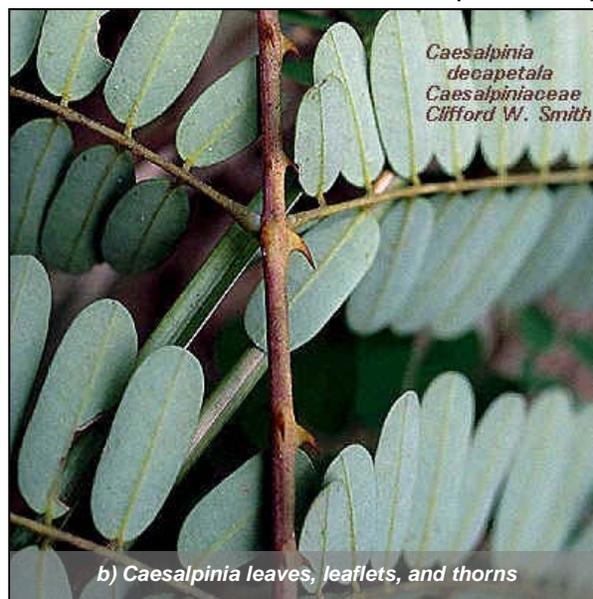
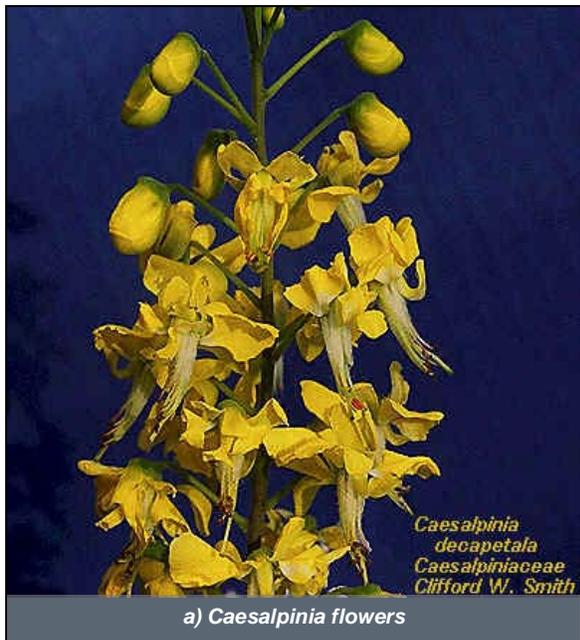
Cat's claw (*Caesalpinia decapetala*)



- Scientific name & Code:** *Caesalpinia decapetala* (Roth) Alston., **CADE15**
Synonyms – *Biancaea seiparia* (Roxb.) Todaro, *Caesalpinia seiparia* Roxb.
- Family:** Fabaceae – Pea Family
- Duration/Growth Habit:** Perennial Vine/Shrub
- Common names:** English – cat's claw, shoofly, wait-a-bit, Mysore thorn, Mauritius thorn
Hawaiian – popoki, puakelekino
- Origin:** Temperate and tropical eastern Asia. Introduced into Hawai'i as a natural fence. Collected on O'ahu in 1910
- Description:** Deciduous, sprawling, climbing shrub (up to 10 m) with numerous spines. Bark is dull red, stems minutely golden-hairy. Branches and rachis of leaves and flowers with recurved prickles and pubescent. Leaves pinnate, 20-30 cm long with 3-10 pairs of leaflets, opposite with prickles in pairs at base; leaflets 8-12 pairs, oblong, 1-2.4 cm x 6-12 mm, membranous. Flowers in terminal racemes, 15-30 cm; 5-merous yellow, orbicular or obovate 1-1.2 cm. Legume chestnut-brown, shiny, oblong-ligulate 6-12 x 2.4-3 cm, with a sharp beak. Seeds 6-9, brown, elliptic about 11 x 6 mm.
- Propagation:** Produces numerous seeds, medium sized seeds are dispersed by rodents, grain eating birds, and humans. Seeds sprout in 40-50 days after sowing.
- Distribution:** Identified in Hawaii (O'ahu, Ni'ihau, Kaua'i, Maui, Moloka'i, and Hawai'i)
- Habitat/Ecology:** Confined to dry to mesic lowland habitats, moist forests, pastures, along roadsides, abandoned lands, and disturbed areas. Not shade-tolerant.
- Environmental impact:** Forms impenetrable thickets, climbs high up trees. Closes off pastures to animals, impedes passage in forests. A hazard to animals, which can become trapped in thickets.
- Management:** Physical – Cutting may be effective. It is extremely prickly, and attempts at physical control must be done carefully.
Chemical – Sensitive to foliar applications of glyphosate and triclopyr, and to soil applications of tebuthiuron. Repeated applications (3-9 months) stresses the plant, opens the canopy, and controls newly germinated seedlings. Basal bark treatments with very low volume triclopyr ester in diesel oil are also effective.
Biological – The potential for biological control has not been evaluated. Unpalatable to grazing animals.

PIER Risk Assessment: High Risk, score: 20

Cat's claw - *Caesalpinia decapetala*



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