

# TREES BEES USE *CHROMOLAENA ODORATA*

(*Eupatorium odoratum* L)

G O Adesina and S A Babarinde,  
Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Nigeria

## Apicultural value

*Chromolaena odorata* is a good source of pollen for bees.

## Agricultural value

A troublesome weed of open cultivated fields, roadsides and plantation crops.

## Names

Siam weed Yoruba Name: *Koko Akintola*

## Family

Asteraceae

## Origin

It is indigenous to South and Central America. Now introduced to Africa, Asia and the Pacific, where it is an invasive species.

## Description

A diffuse, rapidly growing, strongly scented perennial shrub up to 3 m or more high. It is widespread in West Africa from coastal fringes of the rainforest to the southern edge of Guinea Savanna.

## Flowering

Siam weed usually begins to flower at the onset of the dry season around October. Where bush burning destroys the plants, regrowth (the new shoot) may be found with blooming flowers till March, especially



*Chromolaena odorata*



*Chromolaena odorata* – a good source of pollen for bees

along the coastal areas. In Nigeria, honey bees visit the plant in the morning around 0600-1000 hours.

## Flowers

Pale blue mauve or whitish with florets borne in pedunculate clusters.

## Uses

The plant is an unwanted species in cultivated fields due to its allelopathic characteristics (this means it uses specific bio-molecules to harm other plants) on other annual and perennial weeds growing within its vicinity. Research has confirmed that the exudates have nematocidal properties (against root knot nematodes).

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*Chromolaena odorata* starts to flower at the onset of the dry season