

Dioscorea polystachya

CHINESE YAM

Dioscoreaceae

Common Synonyms: *Dioscorea oppositifolia*

FLEPPC Category: -

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

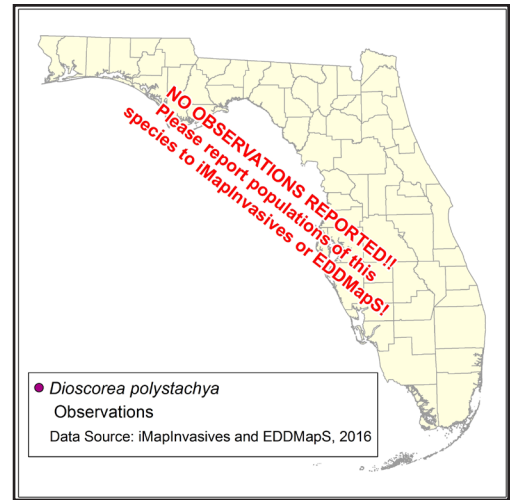
IFAS Assessment

North	INVASIVE
Central	INVASIVE
South	INVASIVE

USDA Hardiness Zone: 5b - 11

Growth Habit: Vine

Origin: China



Jack Ranney, University of Tennessee, Bugwood.org

Description: Creeping and climbing vine up to 5 m in height, climbing over trees and shrubs. Leaves alternate or opposite, acute with heart-shaped base, 4-8 cm long. Clustered flowers fragrant, small, yellow-white, bell-shaped in leaf axils. Aerial tubers (bulbils) 0.7-3.0 cm long covered with adventitious buds form in leaf axils in late summer.

Note: Distinguish from native wild yam (*Dioscorea villosa*) by the presence of bulbils and glabrous upper leaf surface.

Habitat: Rich soils along streams, creeks, and rivers, disturbed sites

Florida Introduction Date: introduced in US 1800's, Florida introduction date unknown

Control Methods: Mechanical: No specific information for species, but could manage similar to *D. alata* and *D. bulbifera*..

Chemical: From info for *D. bulbifera*: Foliar (1-2% glyphosate [IFAS]), cut stems (10% triclopyr ester [IFAS] or undiluted triclopyr amine [UGA])..

Useful Resources:

University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. 2013. BugwoodWiki: Chinese yam - *Dioscorea oppositifolia*. http://wiki.bugwood.org/Archive:SEPPC/Chinese_Yam_-_Dioscorea_oppositifolia_L.. Accessed on December 9, 2013.

Comments: Only vouchered from Alachua Co. Established in mid-Atlantic, KY, TN, etc. Climate may limit spread to FL.