

Boerhavia coccinea

Red spiderling

Boerhavia coccinea Mill.

Family: Nyctaginaceae

Description: Low herb with stems sparsely hairy, lower stems leafy. Leaves broad, 1 inch long by 1 inch wide, 3–5 pairs of prominent veins, margins hairy. Upper stems open, delicate; divided inflorescence with small bright red flowers. Fruits small, club-shaped, sticky, cling to clothing and fur. Roots thick and fleshy. Genus named after botanist Herman Boerhaave (1666–1738), University of Leiden⁽⁷⁰⁾; *coccinea*, red⁽⁶⁹⁾.

Distribution: Native to the Caribbean. Established in coastal and low areas of Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Maui, Kaho‘olawe, and Hawai‘i⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: A nuisance in coastal areas including beach parks because of the sticky fruit.



Management: Foliar application of triclopyr amine product at 2% in water provided good control (Hank Oppenheimer, Maui Pine).