

# Asystasia gangetica

## Chinese violet, coromandel

*Asystasia gangetica* (L.) T. Anderson

Family: Acanthaceae

**Description:** Trailing, climbing herb. Common ornamental groundcover. Stems to 6 ft long. Leaves ovate, 2 inches long, opposite, with few flattened hairs especially along the veins. Flowers, 1 inch diameter, several in-line on one side of the floral spike, two triangular bracts; calyxes with 5 narrow, pointed lobes; corollas tubular, color variable between plants, white, yellowish white, yellow, pale blue or purple; stamens 4. Fruits two-lobed capsules 0.6–1.3 inches long, containing 4 seeds. *Asystasia* may be from the Greek *asystatos*, loose, not cohesive, perhaps a reference to the trailing stems that do not root<sup>(70)</sup>; *gangetica* refers to the Ganges River<sup>(5)</sup>.

**Distribution:** A common ornamental, native to India, Malaysia, Africa. On all the main Hawaiian islands and Midway in mesic to dry areas. First collected on O‘ahu in 1925<sup>(70)</sup>.



**Environmental impact:** Smothers low-growing plants.

**Management:** Probably sensitive to hormone-type herbicides.