

*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides* (D.Don ex Hook. & Arn.) DC

Fam: Asteraceae

Senegal tea

**Synonyms** : *Alomia spilanthoides* D.Don ex Hook.**Ecology** : Senegal tea requires tropical, sub-tropical or warm temperate climates to thrive, and grows best at temperatures of 15-30°C. However, it also appears to be frost tolerant. Its hollow stems allow it to grow across the surface of shallow, slow-moving or marshy freshwater courses.**Threat** : Senegal tea is traded as an ornamental aquatic plant in Europe. It can develop floating mats that can block drainage systems and irrigation canals. It outcompetes native plant species and may cause anoxia in water.**Control** : Chemical control options are restricted in an aquatic habitat. Small infestations can be managed manually or mechanically. Care must be taken not to leave broken plant parts behind. Re-establishment from seed or fragments is likely requiring follow-up control for several years.**Identification / similar species** : Senegal tea may be confused with alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) due its general appearance as aquatic plant rooted along the water line with entire, elliptic opposite leaves and white, globose inflorescences.**This species is on the list of invasive alien species of Union concern ('the Union list') pursuant to regulation (EU) no.1143/2014.**