**Asystasia gangetica**

**Scientific Name**
Asystasia gangetica (L.) T. Anderson subsp. gangetica

**Synonyms**
Asystasia coromandeliana Nees
Asystasia gangetica (L.) T. Anderson
Justicia gangetica L.

**Family**
Acanthaceae

**Common Names**
Chinese violet, coromandel, creeping foxglove, Ganges primrose, Philippine violet

**Origin**
Native to the Indian Sub-continent (i.e. India and Sri Lanka).

**Naturalised Distribution**
Naturalised in the coastal districts of northern Australia (i.e. in northern and central Queensland and the northern parts of Western Australia). Also naturalised on Christmas Island and possibly naturalised in the northern parts of the Northern Territory.

**Notes**
Chinese violet (*Asystasia gangetica* subsp. *gangetica*) is regarded as an environmental weed in northern Queensland and as a potential environmental weed in other parts of northern Australia. This garden escape is a weed of disturbed sites and waste areas that has also invaded undisturbed natural vegetation, coastal sites and riparian areas in tropical regions. It smothers other ground dwelling plants and displaces vegetation reducing the availability of habitat for native plants and animals. For example, a dense population was recently found on revegetated coastal sand dunes, along Pallarenda Road on the way out to Cape Pallarenda, in Townsville. The plants were growing vigorously in amongst and in the shade of she-oak and wattle trees. This sub-species is currently regarded as less of a threat than *Asystasia gangetica* subsp. *micrantha*, but there is little or no scientific evidence to support this.

*Note:* Chinese violet (*Asystasia gangetica* subsp. *gangetica*) usually has pink, mauve or purplish flowers with paler throats. However, some plants have entirely white or cream flowers with pale yellow throats, and these are sometimes known as *Asystasia gangetica* ‘Alba’. See also the fact sheet for *Asystasia gangetica* subsp. *micrantha*, which has white flowers with purple blotches in two parallel lines on the inside of the lowest petal lobe.
close-up of stems (Photo: Sheldon Navie)

close-up of flower from side-on (Photo: Sheldon Navie)

the whitish flowered form, which is sometimes known as *Asystasia gangetica 'Alba'* (Photo: Sheldon Navie)

close-up of old fruit that has already released its seeds (Photo: Sheldon Navie)

leaves and flowers of *Asystasia gangetica* subsp. micrantha (Photo: Forest and Kim Starr, USGS)