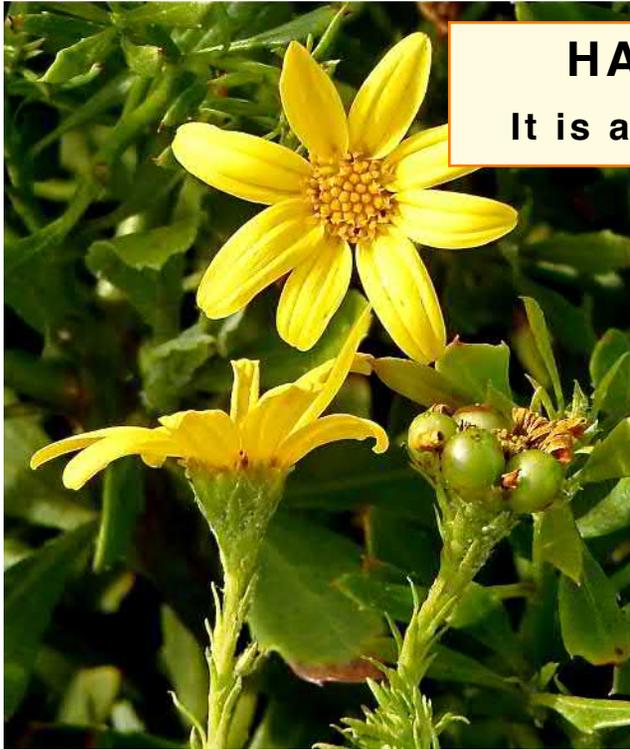




HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

It is an Emergent Invasive in Orange County



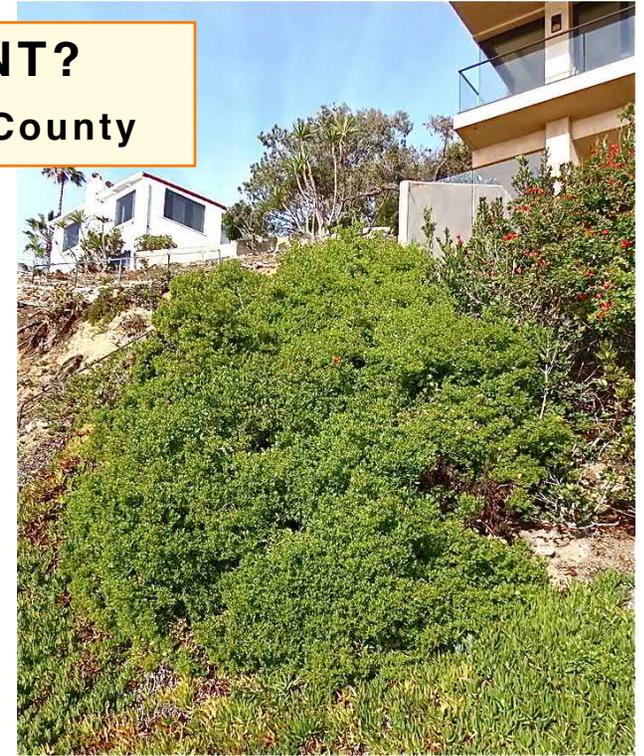
BONESEED

Chrysanthemoides monilifera
ssp. monilifera

[Known OC Sites & Status Updates](#)

Distribution map & info:

- calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=11504
- not listed by Cal-IPC.



Boneseed is an evergreen woody shrub with a rounded sprawling habit to 4.5–7 ft. high & much wider.

Native to the Cape Town area of South Africa, it is able to establish on relatively nutrient-poor soil and in areas exposed to salt such as along coastlines.

Its shallow root system enables it to absorb moisture after light rain--before the moisture reaches the roots of more deeply rooted species--thus beginning growth much sooner.

It flowers March to May.

**BONESEED, P. 2**

Leaves are 0.8-2.4 in long by 0.6–2 in wide, oval tapering to the base, with irregularly, shallowly toothed margins.

The plant is readily grazed by herbivores.

Boneseed is capable of flowering and setting seed within 12–18 months after germination, making it extremely persistent even in situations where disturbance or regular management activity is common.

Fruit is berry-like, about 3/8" diameter, dark-brown to black when ripe, with bone-colored egg-shaped seeds. An individual plant can produce 50,000 seeds a year, about 60% of which are viable and can germinate readily.

Once germinated, seedlings grow vigorously with dense, bushy growth. This lush growth shades out and displaces slower growing native

species that might otherwise occupy the same ecological niche.

The fruit is attractive to birds, rabbits, other animals and even some insects such as ants. The seeds are tough and difficult to digest, so will often be dispersed in animal droppings. Seeds can also spread via vehicles and equipment, in contaminated soil, in garden waste, along water drainage lines, and deliberately by human intervention.

Disturbances such as fire can assist the spread of Boneseed. Its seeds can persist in the soil seed bank for 10 years or more--a reserve that enables the species to quickly recolonize a burned or cleared area.

IF YOU SEE THIS PLANT AT A SITE THAT'S NOT ON THE LIST:

- Record the plant's location as exactly as you can (GPS coordinates if possible), the date you saw it, and an estimate of how many there were. Include the site's landowner or manager, if known.
- Take identifying photos: the whole plant & its surroundings, closeups of leaves, flowers & fruits/pods.
- If you take a sample, place it immediately into a sealed bag.
- To avoid spreading the plant, check your clothing and shoes thoroughly before leaving the area, and remove and bag all traces of seeds.
- Report the find immediately to **invasives@occnps.org**.