

QUESTION	COMMENTS	REFERENCE	RANKING
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	“A much branched spiny shrub, commonly 1.5 to 2.5 metres high. Stems usually multi-branched from the base, armed with sharp rigid spines to 7.5 cm long. Spiny broom forms an effective hedge because of the dense growth of spiny branches. Dense patches limit access to watering points [for animals].” In dense patches, the plant would create a major impediment to human access, though not requiring significant works or closing tracks	P & C (2001)	MH
2. Reduce tourism?	Although the plant can occur in dense patches, it does so in small populations. Some recreational activities may be affected.	P & C (2001) Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	MH
3. Injurious to people?	The stems bear rigid spines to 7.5 cm long, which could be a hazard to humans and likely to cause injury.	P & C (2001)	H
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Dense patches would create a negative visual impact.		ML
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	Terrestrial species.	P & C (2001)	L
6. Impact water quality?	Terrestrial species.	P & C (2001)	L
7. Increase soil erosion?	A shrub with a stout taproot, sometime forked. Dense stands (as hedges) provide ground cover. Unlikely to contribute to soil erosion.	P & C (2001)	L
8. Reduce biomass?	In Victoria, it invades lowland grassland & grassy woodland and dry sclerophyll forest & woodland. Biomass may increase where dense patches occur.	Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	L
9. Change fire regime?	Not documented. However, the related plant <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> is known to be highly flammable and burn with an intense heat. <i>Calicotome spinosa</i> may also display similar fire response. Moderate change to the frequency and intensity of fire risk.	P & C (2001)	MH
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC=Plains grassy woodland (E); CMA=Corangamite; Bioreg=Victorian Volcanic Plain; VH CLIMATE potential. Nitrogen fixing. Widespread, but in small populations. Minor displacement of ground covers/forbs/shrubs.	Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	ML
(b) medium value EVC	EVC=Herb-rich heathy woodland (D); CMA=Glenelg Hopkins; Bioreg=Dundas Tablelands; VH CLIMATE potential. Impact as in 10(a) above.	Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	ML
(c) low value EVC	EVC=Heathy woodland (E); CMA=Glenelg Hopkins; Bioreg=Dundas Tablelands; VH CLIMATE potential. Impact as in 10(a) above.	Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	ML
11. Impact on structure?	Like <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> , the dense growth possibly shades out other plants and, as brooms fix nitrogen in the soil, establishment of native species may be prevented. The plant only occurs in small populations. Minor effect on the lower and mid strata.	P & C (2001) Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	ML
12. Effect on threatened flora?			

Scientific Name: *Calicotome spinosa*

Common name: Spiny broom

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Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?			
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	“Dense patches reduce grazing and limit access to watering points.” As it occurs in small populations, it is likely to have a minor effect on the habitat of fauna species.	P & C (2001) Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	ML
15. Benefits fauna?	No known benefits to fauna.		H
16. Injurious to fauna?	“Young plants are claimed to be toxic but evidence of this is lacking.” Spines are present all year; may be dangerous to fauna.	P & C (2001)	H
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	Not known as a food source to pests.		L
18. Provides harbor?	“Dense patches provide harbour for pest animals.”	P & C (2001)	H
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	“Dense patches reduce grazing and limit access to watering points.” Minor impact on yield.	P & C (2001) Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	ML
20. Impact quality?	Not a weed of cropping. Not known to affect the quality of produce.		L
21. Affect land value?	Small populations only. Not likely to affect land value.	Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	L
22. Change land use?	Small populations only. Change to land use not required.	Carr <i>et al</i> (1992)	L
23. Increase harvest costs?	Not a weed of cropping.		L
24. Disease host/vector?	None evident.		L