



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Vegetative and Reproductive Growth of an Invasive Weed *Bidens pilosa* L. var. *radiata* and its Noninvasive Congener *Bidens bipinnata* in Taiwan

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ABSTRACT: To gain a better understanding of traits and mechanisms underlying the fast spreading of an invasive plant, *B. pilosa* var. *radiata*, in Taiwan, we compared vegetative and reproductive growth of this invasive plant with its sympatric congener *Bidens bipinnata* L., a naturalized species. The two species had similar photosaturated photosynthetic rate and apparent quantum yield. However, both species differed in the temperature response of seed germination, in traits associated with life history, and in biomass allocation pattern. At winter temperature (18°C) seed germination was inhibited in *B. bipinnata* but not in *B. pilosa* var. *radiata*. Compared to *B. bipinnata*, *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* had higher specific leaf area, allocated more resource to leaves and roots in early growth stage, consequently, had a better growth and accumulated more biomass for an extended growth period. Laboratory experiment showed that shoot segments of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* were capable of growing adventitious roots while those of *B. bipinnata* had no such ability. Thus, differences in specific leaf area, pattern of biomass allocation, seed germination response and vegetative reproduction between these two species explained why *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* outcompeted *B. bipinnata* in the field.

KEY WORDS: *Bidens pilosa* L. var. *radiata* Sch. Bip., *Bidens bipinnata* L., biomass allocation, invasive plant, reproductive growth, vegetative growth.

INTRODUCTION

Invasion of exotic plants is a global phenomenon which often has highly impact on the environment and economics of regions being invaded (Pimentel *et al.*, 2000; D'Antonio and Kark, 2002; Xu *et al.*, 2006). For example, invasion by nonindigenous species has been recognized as second only to loss of habitat as a threat to global biodiversity (Walker and Steffen, 1997). Hence, preventing the spread of and facilitating remediation efforts of invasive species are of critical importance. Through increasing our understanding of the biology of invasive plants, we will have a better chance to find the most effective ways to accomplish the mission.

One of the most important questions been asked about the invasive plants is what makes them invasive. Traits such as reproductive and dispersal capabilities and growth-related characteristics may all contribute to the success of exotic species (Pattison *et al.*, 1998; Rejmanek, 2000; Ridenour and Callaway, 2001). An effective approach to assess the characteristics that contribute to the competitive ability of an invasive species is to make comparisons between sympatric invasive and non-invasive congeners (Schierenbeck *et al.*, 1994; Mack, 1996; McDowell, 2002; Feng *et al.*, 2008; Bryson *et al.*, 2012). The advantage of comparing

congeners rather than unrelated species is that it provides more insight into which traits actually play a role in the invasiveness of a species and which are merely coincidental (Mack, 1996; McDowell, 2002; Daehler, 2003; Deng *et al.*, 2004; Schmidt *et al.*, 2008).

Two exotic *Bidens* species, belonging to Asteraceae, were reported in Taiwan (Peng *et al.*, 1998). *Bidens pilosa* L. var. *radiata* Sch. Bip., a native plant of North America (Peng *et al.*, 1998), was first recorded in Taiwan in 1984 (Wu *et al.*, 2004). It is now widely distributed and listed as one of the twenty most noxious invasive weeds in Taiwan (Chang *et al.*, 2003). *Bidens bipinnata*, the other exotic *Bidens* species in Taiwan, is also a native of North America and was first recorded in Taiwan in 1904 (Wu *et al.*, 2004). In contrast to *B. pilosa* var. *radiata*, *B. bipinnata* has become a naturalized plant and mainly distributed in Southern Taiwan (Peng *et al.*, 1998). However, probably due to its less competitive than *B. pilosa* var. *radiata*, very few populations of *B. bipinnata* could be found in Taiwan now (personal obs). Local farmers used to make herb tea from *B. bipinnata*, however, owing to less and less *B. bipinnata* being found in the field they use *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* now. The first question prompted to us was what traits contributing to the superiority of *B. pilosa* L. var. *radiata* over *B. bipinnata* resulting in the diminishing of the later species in the southern region of Taiwan?





Could these traits also make *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* invasive in Taiwan?

In a previous study, we found that the germination percentage of seeds of *B. bipinnata* was significantly reduced by aqueous tissue extracts from *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* but the growth of seedlings of *B. bipinnata* was not affected (Hsu and Kao, 2009). Thus, the alleopathic effect could only partially explain the overwhelming dominance of the invasive species over its congener when they are sympatric. To gain a better understanding of traits and mechanisms underlying the fast spreading of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* in Taiwan, in this study we compared traits related to carbon gain, growth and reproduction of these two species.

Studies comparing invasive versus non-invasive species growing in the same area generally have found that exotic invasive species have higher relative growth rates, specific leaf areas (leaf area per unit leaf weight), leaf area ratio (total leaf area per plant biomass) and maximal photosynthetic rates (A_{\max}) as well as lower respiratory costs than native species or non-invasive congeners (Durand and Goldstein, 2001; Smith and Knapp, 2001; Grotkopp *et al.*, 2002; Pyšek and Richardson, 2007; Schlaepfer *et al.*, 2010; van Kleunen *et al.*, 2010). In addition, life history traits are also considered important in determining the success of invasive plants (Sutherland, 2004). *B. pilosa* L. has been reported as 1- to 2- years herb in Hawaiian rainforest (Pattison *et al.*, 1998). No information about the life span of these two species in Taiwan is available. Also, there is evidence that invasive plants could change life history in the introduced range (Müller-Schärer *et al.*, 2004).

Accordingly, we compared a subset of leaf-level and whole-plant traits related to carbon gain, growth, and reproduction between the invasive plant *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* and its noninvasive congener *B. bipinnata*. Field and greenhouse experiments were conducted. Photosynthetic rates and specific leaf area of field growing plants were measured. Physiological traits related to carbon gain (photosynthesis-irradiance response curve, photosaturated photosynthetic and dark respiration rates), morphological traits related to biomass allocation and growth, and life history traits related to spreading capabilities were measured on the two congeners grown in a greenhouse. Invasive plants are predicted to have traits that favor efficient use of resources and better ability for dispersal than non-invasive congeners. Thus, we tested the hypothesis that traits, such as biomass allocation to leaves, specific leaf area, and maximum photosynthetic rates, which are indicators of efficient use of resources (Vitousek, 1986) would be greater and the spreading capabilities would be better for the invasive *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* when compared to the non-invasive *B. bipinnata*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Field site description and measurements

Field study was conducted in an abandoned orchard, ca. 1500 m², located in Madou town (120°15' E, 23°10' N), Tainan, in Southern Taiwan, where *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* and *B. bipinnata* growing sympatrically. By the time we started the experiment, about 99% of the ground inside the orchard was covered by *B. pilosa* L. var. *radiata* (ca. 40 plants m⁻²), while only about 20 plants of *B. bipinnata* (covered less than 10 m²) were found.

Photosaturated photosynthetic rates (A_{\max}) were measured with an LI-6400 infrared gas exchange system (LI-Cor, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA) on the most recently expanded leaves of field-growing plants in August, 2005. Measurement conditions within the cuvette were controlled as photon flux density (PFD) of 1500 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$, cuvette temperature 30°C, leaf-to-air water vapor pressure difference (VPD) 1.2–1.5 kPa, and ambient CO₂ concentration $360 \pm 5 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ m}^{-3}$ (Kao *et al.*, 2003). After steady-state rates of A_{\max} had been recorded, light was turned off for the measurement of dark respiration rate (LI-COR, 2004). Finally, leaves were removed from the cuvette and excised, leaf area was measured using a leaf area meter (LI-3100, Licor, Lincoln, NE). The leaf was then dried at 60°C for at least 48 h and its dry mass weighted with an electronic balance (Mettler AB104). Specific leaf area ($\text{cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$) was then calculated as leaf area/leaf dry mass.

Greenhouse study

To compare growth and pattern of biomass allocation during different growth stages, two experiments were conducted in a greenhouse in National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan.

After being germinated in petri dishes, seedlings with one pair of leaves were transplanted into 2L plastic pots. One seedling was planted in each pot, which was filled with a mixture of 1 : 1 vermiculite: soil by volume. Plants were grown in a glasshouse in natural daylight, watered every day, and fertilized using inorganic fertilizer (Hyponex with N : P : K = 20 : 20 : 20, 1g L⁻¹) 100 ml once every week.

In the first experiment (conducted from July to September, 2005), plants were harvested 64 days after being transplanted to the pots. At the time of harvesting, *B. bipinnata* had just started flowering (flowers arranged in capitula) while *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* was still at vegetative stage. In the second experiment (conducted from Jan. to May, 2005), plants were harvested when both species had capitula, about 113 days after being transplanted to the pots. Following growth parameters were measured and calculated during and after the





experiments.

The relative growth rate of plant height (RGR), was calculate as $RGR = [\ln(\text{plant height at harvest}) - \ln(\text{initial plant height})] / \text{time in growth period (days)}$ (Hoffmann and Poorter, 2002). At harvest, the soil was cleaned from the roots, and plants were divided into roots, stems, leaves plus petiole, and reproductive components (capitula and seeds). Leaf areas of fresh leaves were measured with an area meter (LI-3100, Li-Cor). The harvested components were dried at 60°C for at least 48 hours before weighted with an electronic balance. Following variables were calculated from these measurements. Root mass ratio (RMR = root mass/total biomass), stem mass ratio (SMR = stem mass/total biomass), leaf mass ratio (LMR = leaf mass/total biomass), reproductive part mass ratio (RPMR = (capitula+seed)/total biomass), root: shoot ratio and leaf area ratio (LAR = total leaf area/total biomass) were determined.

In the second experiment, on days 83 after transplanting photosynthetic response of the most recently expanded leaves were measured with a LI-6400 infrared gas exchange system. For measuring the photosaturated photosynthetic rate (A_{\max}), quantum yield and dark respiration rate (R_d), the PFD was adjusted from 2000 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ to darkness in steps. Other conditions within the cuvette were ambient temperature of 25°C, VPD 1.1–1.5 kPa, and ambient CO_2 concentration 380 $\text{cm}^3 \text{m}^{-3}$. After the response curve had been recorded, leaves were removed from the cuvette and excised and specific leaf area was measured. The slope of the relationship between net CO_2 assimilation rate (A) and PFD ($< 100 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$) was taken to represent apparent photosynthetic quantum yield (AQY).

Laboratory experiments

To investigate if their seed germination rate differs at different seasons, we germinated seeds of both species at two different temperatures representing temperature for summer (28°C) and winter (18°C) months of the southern Taiwan. Seeds collected from field were placed on water-saturated filter paper in a petri dish (diameter \times height = 90 mm \times 15 mm), with 25 seeds per petri dish and 5 petri dishes per species per treatment. These petri dishes were then transferred to two growth chambers controlled as relative humidity of 70%, light/dark cycle of 12/12h and PFD at light period of 100–150 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ and air temperature of 28 and 18°C, respectively. Seed germination was recorded everyday for 10 days. Seeds were considered germinated when radicles could be observed by naked eyes (Reddy and Singh, 1992).

Field observation reveals that the vertical plant height of both species was similar, about 90 cm.

However, individuals of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* extend horizontally and can reach 2–3 m long. In addition, it is not rare to find adventitious roots growing from stems of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata*. Thus, in addition to reproduce sexually *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* seems to be able to reproduce vegetatively. Accordingly, we compared the ability of both species to produce adventitious roots in the laboratory. A segment of shoot between node 7 and 15 bearing 1–2 nodes and pair of leaves was cut from plants of 4 months old, 3 replicates for each species. The tip of the segment was immersed into water and the growth of adventitious roots and lateral branch was recorded.

Statistical analysis

Means were analyzed by unpaired t-test (double-tailed, $\alpha = 0.05$) The significant difference was defined as $P < 0.05$. All statistical tests were performed using SAS (SAS Software V8.1, USA) software package.

RESULTS

Field measurements

No significant difference was found in A_{\max} between the two species (Table 1). However, *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* had significantly higher SLA than *B. bipinnata* ($P < 0.05$).

Greenhouse study

For plants growing in greenhouse, leaves of both species responded to increasing PFD with increases in net CO_2 assimilation (A) until light saturation (Fig. 1). No significant difference in A was found between the two species for each given PFD, except at PFD = 0. Consequently, no significant difference was found in A_{\max} and apparent quantum yield between leaves of greenhouse grown *B. pilosa* and *B. bipinnata* plants (Table 2). While at PFD = 0, leaves of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* had significantly higher dark respiration rates than those of *B. bipinnata* (Table 2).

Similar to results of field investigation, greenhouse grown *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* had higher SLA than *B. bipinnata* (Table 2).

In the early growing stage, *B. bipinnata* grew higher hence had significantly higher RGR in plant height than *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* (Table 3). However, both species accumulated similar biomass during the 64 days of growing period. Further analysis reveals that two species differed significantly in the pattern of biomass allocation. *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* allocated proportionately more biomass to leaves and less to stems and roots ($P < 0.05$), while *B. bipinnata* more to stems than to leaves and roots. In comparison between species, *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* allocated significantly

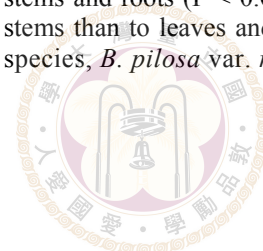




Table 1. Photosaturated photosynthetic rate (A_{max}) and specific leaf area (SLA) of field growing plants *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* ($n = 12$) and *B. bipinnata* ($n = 10$). Values (mean \pm s.e.) within the same row followed by different superscripts represent significant difference at $P = 0.05$.

	<i>B. pilosa</i> var. <i>radiata</i>	<i>B. bipinnata</i>
A_{max} ($\mu\text{mol CO}_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$)	24.0 \pm 1.5 ^a	24.8 \pm 1.4 ^a
SLA ($\text{cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$)	453.4 \pm 19.3 ^a	381.7 \pm 27.4 ^b

Table 2. Means \pm s.e. ($n = 6$) of relative growth rate in plant height (RGR) and biomass allocation variables, i.e. total biomass, root mass ratio (RMR), stem mass ratio (SMR), leaf mass ratio (LMR), capitula mass ratio (CMR), root/shoot ratio and leaf area ratio (LAR), for potted *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* and *B. bipinnata* plants after being grown in a greenhouse for 64 days (from July to Sept., 2005). Values within the same row followed by different superscripts represent significant difference at $P = 0.05$.

Variables	<i>B. pilosa</i> var. <i>radiata</i>	<i>B. bipinnata</i>
RGR ($\text{cm cm}^{-1} \text{ day}$)	0.65 \pm 0.16 ^b	2.66 \pm 0.22 ^a
Total Biomass (g)	4.15 \pm 0.88 ^a	4.32 \pm 0.55 ^a
RMR (g g^{-1})	0.28 \pm 0.02 ^a	0.17 \pm 0.01 ^b
SMR (g g^{-1})	0.30 \pm 0.03 ^b	0.49 \pm 0.01 ^a
LMR (g g^{-1})	0.42 \pm 0.01 ^a	0.27 \pm 0.01 ^b
CMR (g g^{-1})	0.00 \pm 0.00 ^b	0.07 \pm 0.01 ^a
Root/Shoot	0.39 \pm 0.04 ^a	0.21 \pm 0.01 ^b
LAR ($\text{cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$)	124.1 \pm 7.2 ^a	97.2 \pm 7.0 ^b

Table 3. Photosaturated photosynthetic rate (A_{max}), apparent quantum yield (AQY), dark respiration rate (Rd) and specific leaf area (SLA) of the most recently, fully expanded leaves of potted *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* and *B. bipinnata* plants after being grown in a greenhouse for 83 days. Values (mean \pm s.e., $n = 5$) within the same row followed by different superscripts represent significant difference at $P = 0.05$.

Variables	<i>B. pilosa</i> var. <i>radiata</i>	<i>B. bipinnata</i>
A_{max} ($\mu\text{mol CO}_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$)	20.1 \pm 0.7 ^a	20.3 \pm 0.6 ^a
AQY ($\mu\text{mol CO}_2 \mu\text{mol photons}^{-1}$)	0.063 \pm 0.003 ^a	0.068 \pm 0.003 ^a
Rd ($\mu\text{mol CO}_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$)	1.8 \pm 0.1 ^a	1.3 \pm 0.2 ^b
SLA ($\text{cm}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$)	467.1 \pm 16.2 ^a	425.2 \pm 23.6 ^a

more biomass to leaves and roots than *B. bipinnata* did. In *B. pilosa* var. *radiata*, leaves and roots account for 70% of total biomass. While plants of *B. bipinnata* allocated more biomass to stems than those of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* did, their stems account for almost 50% of

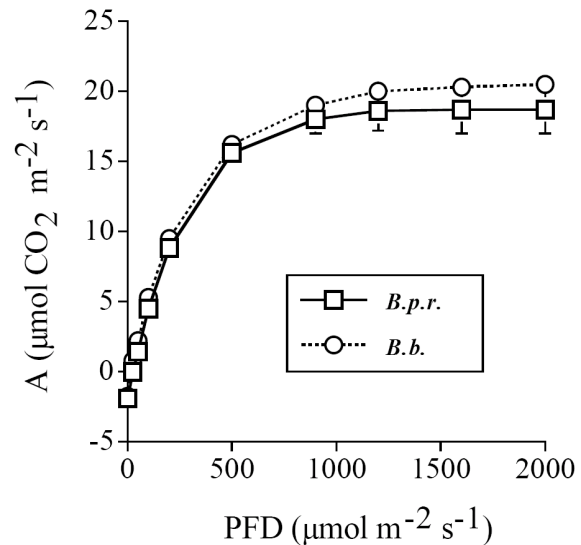


Fig. 1. Net CO_2 assimilation as a function of photosynthetic photon flux density (PPFD) for *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* (*B. p. r.*) and *B. bipinnata* (*B. b.*) grown in a greenhouse. Standard errors are indicated by bars ($n = 5$), if larger than symbols.

total biomass. Leaf area ratio was found significantly higher in *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* than in *B. bipinnata* (Table 3).

In an extended growth period (the 2nd experiment), plants of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* were significantly higher (Fig. 2) and accumulated more biomass (Table 4), about 100% more, than *B. bipinnata* at harvest. *B. bipinnata* was found to allocate proportionally more biomass to reproduction component than *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* did. More than half of the above ground biomass of *B. bipinnata* was allocated to sexual reproductive component. Lateral branch mass ratio was higher in *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* than in *B. bipinnata*.

Germination rate

At 28°C, more seeds of *B. bipinnata* germinated than those of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* during the first 3 days of treatment, on the 7th days both species had similar number of seeds germinated, and at the end of treatment no significant difference was found in the germination percentage (about 80%) between the two species (Fig. 2).

In the first 3 days of treatment, low temperature inhibited seed germination of both species, consequently, both species had significantly less seeds germinated at 18°C than at 28°C. But the degree of inhibition differed between the two species, the inhibition was more severe in *B. bipinnata* than in *B. pilosa* var. *radiata*. On the 4th day, the effect of inhibition was not found in *B. pilosa* var. *radiata*, i.e., no significant difference was found in germination percentage between 28 and 18°C. In



Table 4. Means (\pm s.e., $n=6$) of relative growth rate of plant height (RGR), total biomass, root mass ratio (RMR), shoot mass ratio (SMR), lateral branch mass ratio (LBMR) and reproductive part (including capitula and seeds) mass ratio (RPMR) and root/shoot ratio for potted *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* and *B. bipinnata* plants after being grown in a greenhouse for 113 days (from Jan. to May, 2005). Values within the same row followed by different superscripts represent significant difference at $P = 0.05$.

Variable	<i>B. pilosa</i> var. <i>radiata</i>	<i>B. bipinnata</i>
RGR (cm cm ⁻¹ day)	1.21 \pm 0.08 ^a	0.35 \pm 0.09 ^b
Total Biomass (g)	50.2 \pm 1.8 ^a	24.0 \pm 0.7 ^b
RMR (g g ⁻¹)	0.08 \pm 0.01 ^a	0.05 \pm 0.00 ^b
SMR (g g ⁻¹)	0.92 \pm 0.01 ^b	0.95 \pm 0.00 ^a
LBMR (g g ⁻¹)	0.81 \pm 0.01 ^a	0.73 \pm 0.02 ^b
RPMR (g g ⁻¹)	0.04 \pm 0.04 ^a	0.55 \pm 0.01 ^b
Root/Shoot	0.09 \pm 0.01 ^a	0.05 \pm 0.00 ^b

contrast, the inhibition effect persisted in *B. bipinnata*, only 10% of its seeds were found germinated within 10 days. As a result, at 18°C *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* had significantly higher percentage of seed germination than *B. bipinnata*.

Growth of adventitious roots

Shoot segments of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* were observed to grow adventitious roots one week after being immersed into water (Fig. 3a). Production and growth of lateral branches from the shoot segments was also found following the growing of adventitious roots in *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* (Fig. 3b). In contrast, neither adventitious root nor production of lateral branch was found in any of shoot segments cut from individual plants of *B. bipinnata*.

DISCUSSION

This is the first study comparing the physiological and morphological traits and life history between the two exotic *Bidens* weeds, one invasive and the other naturalized, in Taiwan. Results from the comparison suggest that some morphological and life history traits play important roles in outcompetition of *B. bipinnata* by *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* in the study farm, those traits might also contribute to the success of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* in Taiwan.

One mechanism by which invasive plants may achieve success is through maximizing photosynthesis (Baruch and Goldstein, 1999; Durand and Goldstein, 2001). For example, A_{max} was identified as one of the most useful variables to distinguish between invasive and noninvasive *Rubus* species (McDowell, 2002). In

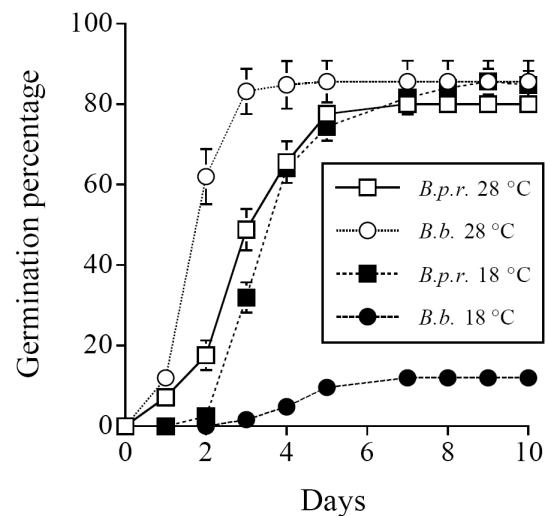


Fig. 2. The percentage of seeds of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* (*B. p. r*) and *B. bipinnata* (*B. b.*) germinated at 28 and 18°C for 10 days. Bars represent s.e.. ($n = 5$)

this study, neither field growing nor greenhouse grown plants of the invasive and non-invasive *Bidens* species showed significant differences in their A_{max} (Table 1 and 2), photosynthesis-irradiance response curve (Fig. 2), and apparent quantum yield (Table 2). *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* even had higher respiratory cost (per unit leaf area) than *B. bipinnata* (Table 2). Thus, it is unlikely that *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* is superior to *B. bipinnata* in leaf-level photosynthetic traits.

Specific leaf area (SLA) is important in regulating and controlling carbon assimilation and allocation and is related to relative growth rates (Lambers and Poorter, 1992; Reich *et al.*, 1997). Therefore, this trait is also considered important in determining success of the invasive plants (Grotkopp *et al.*, 2007; Feng *et al.*, 2008). Leaves of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* showed consistently higher SLA than those of *B. bipinnata* either in field-growing (Table 1) or in greenhouse grown plants (Table 3). Thus, high SLA could be an important factor in determining the success of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata*.

Greenhouse experiments revealed that the pattern of biomass allocation differed between the two species in early growing stage (Table 3). *B. bipinnata* allocated more biomass to organs for supporting (stems), while *B. pilosa* more to those for resource acquisition (leaves and roots). Greater biomass allocation to leaves would allow plants to increase light interception. Though both species had similar photosynthetic rates (Fig. 2) when irradiated with same PFD, *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* with more leaf area to intercept light and more roots to explore nutrients is expected to have higher carbon assimilation rate and accumulate more biomass per plant than *B. bipinnata* in an extend growing period. This expectation is confirmed



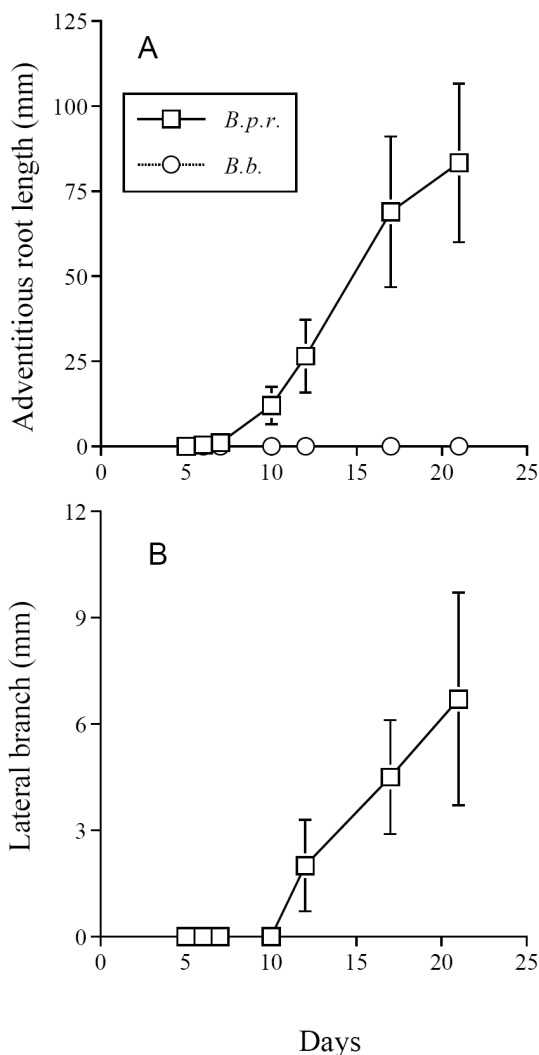


Fig. 3. The growth of adventitious roots (A) and lateral branches (B) from axillary buds of shoot segments of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* (B. p. r) and *B. bipinnata* (B. b.). Standard errors are indicated by bars, if larger than symbols.

by results of the second experiment that *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* accumulated more than one-fold of biomass than *B. bipinnata* during ca. 113 days of greenhouse-growing period (Table 4). Thus, a higher biomass accumulation of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* in comparison to that of *B. bipinnata* results from greater photosynthetic area rather than greater leaf-level photosynthetic rate or less respiratory cost. After comparing the performance of co-occurring native and alien invasive plants, Daehler (2003) also found that invaders are more likely to have higher leaf area. Less biomass allocation to stems could cause less supportive to the plant body. This may explain the architecture differences between field growing *B. bipinnata* and *B. pilosa* var. *radiata*, the shoot of the former is usually erect while that of the later more or less

prostrate and easily being blown down by wind (person. obs.). The character might also facilitate the spreading of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* due to its capability in producing adventitious roots (Fig. 3).

Both species are reported to have sexual reproduction and produce achenes (Peng *et al.*, 1998) which can be dispersed by animals. In the study farm, we found that plants of *B. bipinnata* died off after seed maturation, a typical characteristic of an annual. Though primary shoots, where flowers were produced, of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* also stop growing after seed maturation, its lateral branches continued growing. When lateral branches have opportunities to contact soil, for example as being blown down by wind, they produce adventitious roots and become rametes (field observation). A large biomass allocation to lateral branch coping with the ability to produce adventitious roots would allow *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* adding new modules to the plant body continuously even after the onset of sexual reproduction. Consequently, *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* behaves like a clonal herb and is able to disperse laterally. Laboratory experiment also confirmed that shoots of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* were capable of producing adventitious roots while those of *B. bipinnata* did not have such ability (Fig. 3). This additional mode of reproduction may increase fecundity and help spreading of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata*. In contrast, *B. bipinnata* depends solely on seeds for dispersal and for generating new modules. Due to the inhibition of seed germination by winter temperature (Fig. 1), very few seedlings of *B. bipinnata* were found during the winter in the study farm (person. obs.). It is thus deducible that through vegetative reproduction and/or producing new seedlings *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* could expand and occupy the habitat evacuated by *B. bipinnata* at times, for example in winter, when current generation of *B. bipinnata* had died while new seedlings could not be established in the study farm. In general, vegetative reproduction in addition to help *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* increasing population size at low population densities, especially if the species is self incompatibility, could also make the species a better colonizer and faster reproducer than plants with no such capability. A common trait found in many introduced, invasive species is that they are capable of clonal growth (Pysek, 1997; Liu *et al.*, 2006). Thus, the vegetative reproduction also represents an important life history trait in contributing to the invasiveness of the species.

In conclusion, results of this study suggest that fast growth (due to a higher SLA and more biomass allocating to leaves and roots) and superior spreading capacity (owing to two modes of reproduction) of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* play important roles in outcompeting its congener *B. bipinnata*. These traits may also contribute to the success of *B. pilosa* var. *radiata* as an invader in Taiwan.



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入侵植物大花咸豐草和歸化植物鬼針草之營養生長和繁殖生長比較

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摘要：本文比較在臺灣共域、同屬的大花咸豐草(*Bidens pilosa* L. var. *radiata*)(入侵植物)和鬼針草(*B. bipinnata* L.)(歸化植物)的光合作用表現、種子發芽率、營養生長、以及繁殖生長能力；目的在瞭解大花咸豐草能在台灣快速擴散的生物特徵。結果發現：兩者在光合作用表現上沒有顯著差異，但在不同溫度下的種子發芽率、營養繁殖能力以及生物質量的分配上有顯著差異。鬼針草的種子在冬天低溫(18°C)下發芽率明顯受到抑制，大花咸豐草則無此現象。相較於鬼針草，在幼苗生長時期大花咸豐草有較大的單位乾重葉面積比、把較多的資源分配到葉和根部，因此生長較快，以致在成株時可以累積較多的生物量。又大花咸豐草的分枝可以長不定根形成一新的植株，而鬼針草則無此能力。上述特徵差異可以解釋當大花咸豐草和鬼針草共域時，鬼針族群數量減少的原因；有較大的單位乾重葉面積比、把較多的資源分配到葉和根部、生長較快、種子發芽不受低溫影響、有營養繁殖能力(莖會長不定根)等這些特徵也可能是導致大花咸豐草能在台灣快速擴散的生物因素。

關鍵詞：大花咸豐草、鬼針草、生物質量分配、入侵植物、繁殖生長、營養生長。

