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FOREST DISTURBANCE LEADS TO THE RAPID SPREAD OF THE INVASIVE LEUCAENA LEUCOCEPHALA IN TAIWAN

J. C. Chen¹, C. T. Chen², and A. S. Jump³

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Forestry, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, Corresponding Author, No.1, Shuehfu Rd., Neipu, Pingtung, 91201 Taiwan

²Professor, Department of Forestry, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, Corresponding Author, No.1, Shuehfu Rd., Neipu, Pingtung, 91201 Taiwan

³Senior Lecturer in Plant Ecology, Biological and Environmental Sciences, School of Natural Sciences, University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA, UK

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Abstract. This study, based on different investigative documents and analytical methods, elucidates spatial distribution of habitats for major invasive exotic plants, *Leucaena leucocephala*, in Taiwan. Results show that *Leucaena leucocephala* is most harmful to broad-leaved trees and its invasion directly relates to changes in the physical environment. *Leucaena leucocephala* can bloom and bear fruits all year round and during the period of seeds sprouting and saplings, the invasion varies greatly among different soil types. *Leucaena leucocephala* prefers weakly acidic soil, though it grows well with other soil textures and nutrients as well. The average spreading rate of *Leucaena leucocephala* is 3.55 ha year⁻¹ on abandoned farm land calculated from the aerial photographs taken in 1982, 1992, 2003, and 2007.

[Conference Paper](#) (PDF, 437 KB)

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