

# BIO-HAZARD

## Thelechitonina trilobata

*Thelechitonina trilobata*, Singapore daisy, is native to Central America and has become invasive worldwide. Introduced as an ornamental *T. trilobata* has become widespread throughout Southern Africa. It is also regarded as one of the world's 100 worst alien invasive species (Global Invasive Species Specialist Group). *T. trilobata* has been found in all the major restcamps and staff villages throughout the Kruger National Park.

### Identification

#### Description:

*T. trilobata* is a creeping, mat forming perennial herb that reproduces by seed and vegetatively. The stems form new plants where they touch the ground and pieces regularly take root.

#### Leaves:

The leaves are fleshy and usually between 4 – 9cm long and 2 – 5cm wide. They are irregularly toothed or serrated, usually with a pair of lateral lobes.

#### Flowers:

The flowers are yellow in colour with between 8 – 13 rays per head. The rays are usually 6 – 15mm long.

#### Fruits:

The fruits are in the form of achenes.



Figure 1: *T. trilobata* flower head



Figure 2: *T. trilobata* escaping from garden

### Damage

*T. trilobata* forms a dense ground cover, crowding out or preventing the regeneration of indigenous species.

### Control

Chemical and mechanical are the only methods of control for this plant as no biological agent is available. Follow up is essential to ensure that underground stems do not coppice.

### Contact address

Please report any sightings of *Thelechitonina trilobata* in and adjacent to the Kruger National Park to:

Alien Biota Section

Private Bag X402

Skukuza

1350

Tel: (013) 735 4114 Fax: (013) 735 4051

E-mail: [aliens@parks-sa.co.za](mailto:aliens@parks-sa.co.za)

