



**Botanical Name:** *Ochna serrulata*

**Common Name:** Mickey Mouse plant, Mickey Mouse bush, small-leaved plane, bird's eye bush, carnival bush

**Origin:** Native to southern Africa

**Height/Width:** 3m x 1- 2m

**Habit:** Long-lived perennial upright shrub.

**Habitat:** Mainly a weed of sub-tropical regions, but not exclusively. Invades roadsides, disturbed sites, waste areas, rainforests, forest margins, riparian areas and dry sclerophyll forests that are close to habitation.

**Flower:** Showy, short-lived, bright yellow five petaled flowers with numerous large stamens borne singly on short stalks. The five sepals are green (6-7 mm long at flowering time), but as the fruit develop the sepals enlarge and turn bright red in colour. Flowering occurs mostly during spring and summer.

A ring of up to six shiny, oval fruit (drupes) develop on the central area of the flower and change colour from green to black as they mature.

**Leaves:** Rough woody branches densely covered in many tiny lumps. Younger stems are green to bronze in colour. The alternately arranged leaves are hairless, finely toothed and narrowly oval in shape. Young leaves often have a bronze tinge or are light green, while older leaves are dark green in colour.

**Reproduction:** Mainly by seeds eaten by animals or dispersed in garden wastes.

**Control:** via Basal Bark Treatment. Using a suitable undiluted herbicide, a measure of crop oil or biodiesel in a container stirring the mixture thoroughly. Paint the stem with the mixture all the way around the stem to a minimum height of 30cm. For more details see

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NELVCFBDnfm>