

Originated in the eastern section of North America. May become troublesome in its natural range. Introduced in Europe as an ornamental plant and has become naturalised in some cases.

## **D**escription

- Perennial, herbaceous plant, ranging from 30 to 120 centimetres in height, with a highly characteristic zig-zagging stalk
- The rhizome can reach up to 5 metres in length
- Single, oblong, alternating leaves, heart-shaped at their base, from 10 to 12 cm long and 4 to 5 cm wide
- Spike inflorescence, in clusters, between 15 and 20 cm long
- Hermaphroditic flowers, 5 mm wide, with 6 free-standing stamens,
- 4 stigmates and 4 carpels almost free-standing two by two, on a whitish, petal-like sepal
- Flowers and leaves produce a pepper scent
- Fruit consists of 4 follicles, almost indehiscent, generally with a single seed

## **Ecology** and reproduction

- Prefers marshes, river banks, the bottom of shallow streams, swampy, wet forests
- Vegetative characteristics, fragile and soft in streams. Erect stalks and strong branches on river banks
- Flowers during the summer (June to September). The species is self-incompatible, but produces numerous seeds through cross-pollination
- Vegetative multiplication by producing sprouts along its rhizomes and through the development of adventitious roots on submergent stalks

## **D**ocumentation

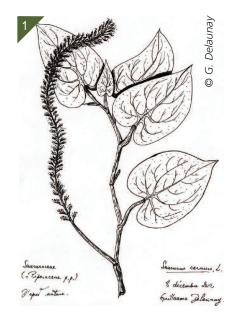
- Delaunay, G. 2005. Contribution à l'étude de la flore du Maine-et-Loire. Un exemple de gestion d'une xénophyte à caractère envahissant : cas de la Lézardelle penchée (*Saururus cernuus* L. Sauracées). Symbioses. 13: 29-31.
- Manual of the Alien Plants of Belgium. 2017. Saururus cernuus. [On line]. Document available at:

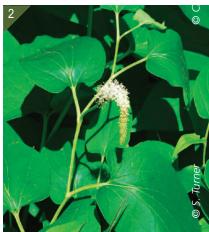
http://alienplantsbelgium.be/content/saururus-cernuus

■ GT IBMA. 2017. Saururus cernuus. Base d'information sur les invasions biologiques en milieux aquatiques. Groupe de travail national Invasions biologiques en milieux aquatiques. UICN France et Agence française pour la biodiversité.

[On line]. Document available at: http://www.gt-ibma.eu/espece/saururus-cernuus/

Classification	
Order	Piperales
Family	Saurururaceae
Genus	Saururus
Species	S. cernuus (Linné, 1753)







Species fact sheet drafted in January 2018 by the AFB and IUCN France national work group for biological invasions in aquatic environments.

