



**Bournemouth  
University**

## The Dangers of Desmodium

### *Desmodium (Desmodium uncinatum)*

This is an invasive plant species that has colonised parts of Madagascar. This is a large perennial legume with stems that can grow several meters long and has large ground coverage. Each stem is covered with short hooked hairs that trap small animals. These stems become increasingly 'sticky' during the wet season trapping more animals. Although This plant is native to South America, the local people of Madagascar use this plant for grazing their livestock. As there are no natural consumers of this plant it grows unchecked and out competes native plant species for light and nutrients. This plant also causes death to a huge number and variety of animals that are endemic to Madagascar.



Above: The remains of a small Chameleon.



Above: A species of bat.



Above: A species of frog.



Above: The remains of a large flying insect.