

The risk of *Acer pseudoplatanus* (sycamore maple) to plant biodiversity in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales

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Summary *Acer pseudoplatanus* L. is invasive in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales and a threat to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Native plant richness is reduced by 75% in mature stands of *A. pseudoplatanus*, where most main life-forms are reduced in cover-abundance. After removal of *A. pseudoplatanus*, native plant richness and cover increases, but with limited re-establishment of native

upper canopy species. Control strategies for *A. pseudoplatanus* need to focus on limiting the rate of spread by eliminating satellite infestations, and containing existing infestations. Treatment of seedling banks and saplings prior to killing mature trees may improve efficacy and effectiveness of control programs.

Keywords Invasions, risk assessment, biodiversity, weed control, species richness.