

hao (Rauvolfia sandwicensis)

APOCYNACEAE, dogbane family

Rauvolfia sandwicensis A. DC.

This species is endemic to the main Hawaiian Islands (Wagner et al. 1990:220).

Summary statement of uses: Other species in this genus elsewhere in the world have medicinal properties (Neal 1965). No ethnobotanical uses of Hawaiian species have been discovered in the literature.

Lennox (1967) wrote of this species, “Smoke considered poisonous - no recorded uses.”

Status at Auwahi: In lower Auwahi, *hao* is still common growing nearly exclusively in the roughest stands of `a`a lava. This species still survives from 2600 feet elevation nearly to sea level in heavily goat browsed areas. Like `ākia, *hao* appears at least unpalatable to grazing animals as it is rarely browsed.