

# *māhoe* (*Alectryon macrococcus*)

SAPINDACEAE, soapberry family



This species is endemic to Kauaʻi, Oʻahu, Molokaʻi, and Maui (Wagner et al. 1990:1224). Another Hawaiian name for this species is *ʻalaʻalahua* (Pukui and Elbert 1986). Rock (1913) noted, “The name *Mahoe*, meaning ‘twins’, undoubtedly refers to the double fruits, which are not uncommon in our *Alectryon*.”

Summary statement of uses: The fruits and seeds of this species are eaten.

Rock (1913) wrote of this species, “The wood, which is very hard and tough, has not been made use of by the natives, as far as can be ascertained. The bright scarlet fruit flesh is eaten by the natives, as well as the kernel of the seed, and are not altogether unpleasant.”

Status at Auwahi: USFWS Endangered species status report (unpublished Sept. 1995) estimates less than 300 individuals of the species survive. Based on numerous field trips in 1995-1996, just over a dozen of these trees of the variety *auwahiensis* survive currently at Auwahi. Seed gathered from one of these tree produced a young healthy seedling about one year old.