No Photo Available

Plants

ʻAkia

Wikstroemia skottsbergiana

SPECIES STATUS:
Genetic Safety Net Species
IUCN Red List Ranking - Extinct (EX)
Hawaiʻi Natural Heritage Ranking - Possibly Extinct (GH)
Endemism – Kauaʻi

SPECIES INFORMATION: Shrubs or small trees. Leaf blades ovate to ovate-elliptic, usually 8-9 cm long, usually 3.8-5.4 cm wide. Peduncles usually 10-15 mm long. Rachis 2-6 mm long. Flowers green; calyx tube 6-10 mm long. Fruit red, ellipsoid, ca. 15 mm long, ca. 8 mm in diameter.

DISTRIBUTION: *Wikstroemia skottsbergiana* is endemic to the island of Kauaʻi. It has been recorded from the head of Hanalei Valley in the north-central part of the island, and from the Wahiawa mountains on the south side of the island. A third location was recorded as ʻKauhaoʻ.

ABUNDANCE: Unknown, the last documented sighting was in 1948, until 1991 and 2001 when an unspecified number of plants were recorded in the Wahiawa Mountains.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Wet forests and shrublands.

THREATS:

- Habitat degradation by feral pigs;
- Fruit predation by rats;
- Competition from alien plant species;
- Stochastic extinction;
- Reduced reproductive vigor due to the small number of remaining individuals.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS: The goals of conservation actions are not only to protect current populations, but also to establish new populations to reduce the risk of extinction. In addition to common statewide and island conservation actions, specific actions include:

- Survey historical range for surviving populations;
- Establish secure *ex-situ* stocks with complete representation of remaining individuals;
- Augment wild population and establish new populations in safe harbors.

MONITORING:

- Continue surveys of population and distribution in known and likely habitats;
- Monitor plants for insect damage and plant diseases.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- Develop proper horticultural protocols and pest management;
- Survey *ex-situ* holdings and conduct molecular fingerprinting;
- Conduct pollination biology and seed dispersal studies;
- Map genetic diversity in the surviving populations to guide future re-introduction and augmentation efforts.

References:

Hawai'i Natural Heritage Program. 2005. Hawaii Natural Heritage Program Search, http://www.hinhp.org/printpage.asp?spp=PDMAL0H0A0.

International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. 2004. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Data Base Search, http://www.redlist.org/search/search-basic.html.

Wagner, W.L., Herbst, D.R., and Sohmer, S.H. 1999. Manual of the Flowering Plants of Hawai'i--Revised Edition. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press and Bishop Museum Press. 1853p.