Myoporum thrips attack native naio
on Big Island

Naio, *Myoporum sandwicensis,* is a dominant tree species in Hawaii and is both culturally and ecologically important (Fig. 1). Myoporum thrips, *Klambothrips myopori*, is a newly established insect pest in Hawaii (Fig. 1). It was first found attacking naio in Kona in March 2009. This pest was likely transported to Hawaii from California, were it has caused death of ornamental *Myoporum* species. Insect feeding causes distortion in young leaves (Fig. 2 B) and gall-like symptoms (Fig. 2 C). High infestation by the thrips causes branch die-back (Fig 2 C), and can eventually result in tree death.

Fig. 1. Healthy naio (left), naio flowers (middle) and Myoporum thrips (right).

State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources and University of Hawaii staff are currently monitoring this pest at multiple sites across a wide range of environments on Hawaii Island.

As part of the project, regular monitoring of the trees will be conducted. Researchers will assess infestation rates, impact of thrips on tree health, as well as seasonal phenology of naio trees at this coastal site. Trees and branches that are being monitored will be marked with temporary flagging tape and metal tags. The information gathered from this project will help determine to what extent Myoporum thrips is impacting the native naio. Results from this project will also provide baseline information to assess potential control methods.

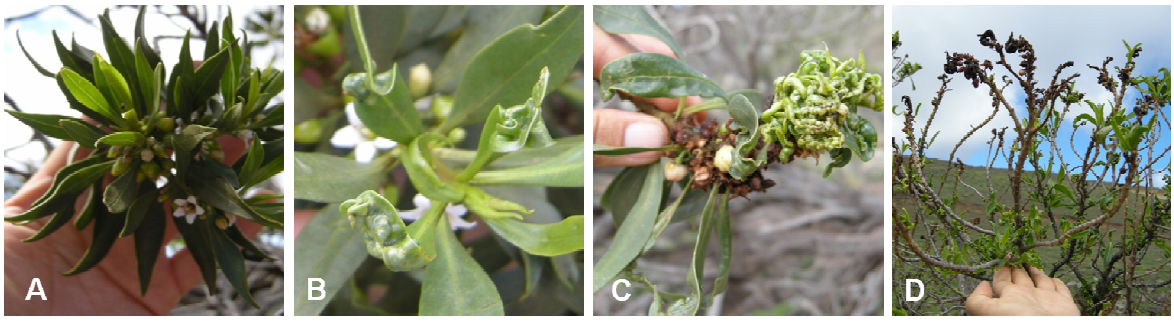

Fig. 2. Healthy naio foliage (A), distortion in young leaves (B), gall-like symptoms (C) and branch die-back (D).