

# Plants

No Photo Available

## 'Oha wai

### *Clermontia oblongifolia* subsp. *mauiensis*

#### SPECIES STATUS:

Federally Listed as Endangered

Genetic Safety Net

IUCN Red List Ranking – Critically Endangered (CR D)

Hawai'i Natural Heritage Ranking - Subspecies Critically Imperiled (G3T1)

Endemism – Maui, Lana'i

Critical Habitat - Designated

**SPECIES INFORMATION:** *Clermontia oblongifolia* ssp. *mauiensis* of the bellflower family is a shrub or tree, reaching a height of 6.6 to 23 ft (2 to 7 m). Leaves, on petioles 1 to 4.5 in (2.5 to 11.5 cm) long, are oblong or elliptic; have thickened rounded teeth; and reach a length of 3 to 7.5 in (8 to 19 cm) and a width of 0.8 to 2 in (2 to 5 cm). Two flowers, or sometimes three, are grouped together on a stalk 0.2 to 1.8 in (0.5 to 4.5 cm) long, each individual flower having a stalk 0.4 to 1.8 in (1 to 4.5 cm) long. The flower is 2.4 to 3.1 in (6 to 7.6 cm) long; the calyx (sepals) and corolla (petals) are similar in size and appearance, each forming an arched tube which is greenish white or purplish on the outside and white or cream colored on the inside. The nearly spherical, orange fruit is a berry, 0.7 to 1.2 in (17 to 30 mm) long. This subspecies differs from others of the species by its leaf shape: the lengths of its leaf, leaf stalk, and flower stalk; the shapes of the leaf tip and the flower bud; and the purple or magenta color of the fused stamens. This species is distinguished from others in the genus by its calyx and corolla, which are similar in color and are each fused into a curved tube that falls off as the flower ages, as well as by the lengths of the leaf and flower stalks, the flower, and the smooth green basal portion of the flower (the hypanthium).

**DISTRIBUTION:** Historically, *Clermontia oblongifolia* ssp. *mauiensis* was known from Mahana and Kaiholena valleys on Lāna'i and from Honomanu Valley on Haleakalā, East Maui.

**ABUNDANCE:** Although *Clermontia oblongifolia* ssp. *mauiensis* was not reported earlier from West Maui, the only currently known individual grows along a trail to Puu Kukui in the Honokowai section of the West Maui Natural Area Reserve on State land.

**LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT:** This taxon typically grows on the sides of ridges in 'ōhi'a-dominated wet montane forests at an elevation of 2,600 to 3,000 ft (850 to 900 m). Associated species include pilo, *Clermontia* ('oha wai),

*Hedyotis* (manono), and *Melicope* (alani).

**THREATS:**

- Likely reduced reproductive vigor, due to limited gene pool, with only single individual known to exist;
- Rooting activities of feral pigs.

**CONSERVATION ACTIONS:** The goals of conservation actions are to not only protect current populations, but also establish further populations to reduce the risk of extinction. The USFWS has developed a recovery plan that details specific tasks needed to recover this species. In addition to common statewide and island conservation actions, specific actions include:

- Survey historic 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:**

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