

No Photo Available

Plants

'Oha

Cyanea eleeleensis

SPECIES STATUS:

Federally Listed as Candidate

Genetic Safety Net Species

IUCN Red List Ranking - Critically Endangered (CR D)

Hawai'i Natural Heritage Ranking - Possibly Extinct (GH)

Endemism – Kaua'i

SPECIES INFORMATION: *Cyanea eleeleensis*, a member of the bellflower family (Campanulaceae), is a shrub 1.8 m tall. Leaf blades 38.5-40.5 cm long. Racemes axillary, with 11-20 flowers. Corollas purple.

DISTRIBUTION: The type collection for *Cyanea eleeleensis* is from Wainiha Valley, Kaua'i made in 1977. Little else is known, except that the specific epithet refers to Pali 'ele'ele, a cliff that descends from Upper Limahuli into Wainiha Valley.

ABUNDANCE: *Cyanea eleeleensis* has not been collected since 1977.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: The only known locality is Wainiha Valley. The elevation noted on the type collection, 700 ft, would likely make it a resident of *Metrosideros* lowland wet forest.



THREATS:

- Competition from alien plant species;
- Rats;
- Pigs;
- Slugs;
- Naturally occurring landslides;
- Reduced reproductive vigor due to the small number of individuals in the only known population.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS: The goals of conservation actions are to not only protect current populations, but to also establish further populations to reduce the risk of extinction. 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:

- Survey for populations 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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Wagner, W. L., D. R. Herbst, and D. H. Lorence. 2005. Flora of the Hawaiian Islands website. <http://ravenel.si.edu/botany/pacificislandbiodiversity/hawaiianflora/index.htm> [August 2005].