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Plants

Lysimachia iniki

SPECIES STATUS:

Genetic Safety Net Species
Hawai'i Natural Heritage Ranking – Critically Imperiled (G1)
Endemism – Kaua'i

SPECIES INFORMATION: Shrubs with pendulous branches 30-150 cm long. Leaf blades are 37-45 mm long and 35-38 mm wide. Flowers solitary in leaf axils. Petals with the distal portion white and the proximal portion dark red, oblanceolate, 15-16 mm long and 5 mm wide. Capsules globose, 6-7 mm long. This species is fairly new to science, described in 1997.

DISTRIBUTION: Recorded from only a single location on Kaua'i.

ABUNDANCE: At least 25 plants have been observed.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Steep cliffs with wet vegetation consisting of native shrubs, sedges, grasses, and ferns.

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>.

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.

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].