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Plants

Sicyos lanceoloideus

SPECIES STATUS:

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

SPECIES INFORMATION: Perennial vines up to 15 m long, base more or less woody for several meters, up to 3 cm in diameter, new season's stems glabrous. Leaves broadly ovate with a narrow basal sinus, 4-15 cm long, 7-16 cm wide, shallowly and palmately 3-5-lobed, the lobes broadly triangular, denticulate, acute, mucronate, glabrous, tendrils 2-3-branched. Staminate flowers in glabrous panicles 8-20 cm long, peduncles 5-8 cm long, pedicels 5-10 mm long, corolla 5-lobed, 8-10 mm in diameter, the lobes white, ovate-triangular, anthers coherent; pistillate flowers 6-10 per head, peduncles 1.3-3 cm long, subsessile or on pedicels up to 4 mm long, hypanthium fusiform, attenuate, 3-7 mm long, 3-angled, stigma shortly 3-lobed. Fruit green, fusiform, 13-25 mm long (incl. beak), 6-8 mm in diameter, 3-6-angled, beaked.

DISTRIBUTION: Kalalau Valley and head of Waimea Canyon, Kaua'i, and in the Wai'anae Mountains, O'ahu.

ABUNDANCE: Less than 75 plants.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Occurring usually on ridges or spurs in mesic forest, 500-1,300 m.

THREATS:

- Currently under research.

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

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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.