

Subject: Maui Melastomes

Date: Mon, 26 Aug 2002 13:22:08 -1000

From: Forest Starr <fstarr@hawaii.edu>

To: "Philip Thomas (HEAR)" <pt@hear.org>

Aloha Philip,

Here's the latest on some of the Maui melastomes.

Forest & Kim

[ed. NOTE: only one ID confirmed now; all specimens will be sent to Bishop Museum.]

MAUI MELASTOMES

There are more species of Melastomes here than we previously realized. The Tibouchina / Melastoma complex is an interesting case in point. We originally thought all Tibouchina like melastomes on Maui that weren't *T. urvilleana* or *T. herbacea* were *Melastoma candidum*. We now think we probably also have *T. granulosa*, *T. multiflora*, *T. longifolia*, and *M. sanguineum* on Maui. These are all state noxious weeds (*Tibouchina* spp. and *Melastoma* spp.). Some of these are known to be weeds elsewhere (*T. longifolia* and *M. sanguineum*). Others (*T. granulosa* and *T. multiflora*) don't appear to have a history of being invasive elsewhere. The question that has arisen from MISC is this, do we control all of these listed melastomes, even if some lack a clear history of invasion? The same question apparently arose with *Medinilla* on the big island.

MORE ON MELASTOMES -- BIOCONTROL

We were recently on the Hana Hwy. with Mach looking at the biocontrols of some of the Melastomes. It appears the *Clidemia* beetle (*Lius poseidon*) has jumped to *Tibouchina herbacea*, and perhaps *T. urvilleana*. Pat Conant apparently recently documented the same thing occurring on the big island (it seems host testing before release was not done well enough to predict this). There is also a lep Mach is now rearing that is doing serious tip damage to *T. urvilleana* (just on the Hana Hwy., not in Kula). The current thinking is that it is either a *Melastoma* agent that somehow made it to Maui, or it is something new.