Julie Denslow and I just returned from Micronesia where we saw *P. auritum* on Pohnpei. George describes it well. It is very vigous. We observed one plant that the local farmer said was one year old that had already set seed. It was about 1.5 times the height and clump size of a neighboring sakau plant that was 2 years old.

The local false sakau task force is taking this species very seriously. The Forest Service will aid the effort by drafting an impact assessment that they can use to convince local official of the potential threat to the economy, environment and culture. We will also be providing control recommendations and perhaps some technical and financial support.

We should do all in our power to work with local kava growers and the invasive species committees to keep false sakau out of our wet forests.

Duane Nelson  
Forest Health Coordinator  
USDA- Forest Service  
Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry  
23 E. Kawili Street  
Hilo, HI  96720  

ph: 808-933-8121 ext 15  
fax: 808-933-8120