

# Cestrum nocturnum

## Night cestrum

*Cestrum nocturnum* L.

Family: Solanaceae

**Description:** Shrub to 12 ft tall, branches wavy, sparsely hairy. Leaves alternate, shiny, oblong to ovate, 6 inches long by 1.6 inches wide. Flowers in dense leafy panicles, opens in evening, greenish yellow, tubular, sweet smelling at night, 5 corolla lobes pointed, erect or spreading. Blooms peak in summer and fall. Berries white, hard or succulent, 0.4 inches diameter. [A smaller West Indian relative, *Cestrum diurnum* L., day cestrum or Chinese inkberry, is shorter, 6 ft, blooms in daytime, leaves to 4.5 inches long. White flowers with 5 blunt corolla lobes, curled back. Black berries. Otherwise similar in appearance. Occurs on Hawai‘i, Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, and Moloka‘i.] *Cestrum* may be from the Greek *kestron*, for similarity to a plant of that name, or *kestrum*, an engravers tool which the anthers resemble; *nocturnum*, nocturnal; *diurnum*, daily<sup>(5, 59, 70)</sup>.

**Distribution:** Native to Antilles and Central America, widespread throughout the tropics. Introduced into Hawai‘i before 1871, a common ornamental. Naturalized at Kōke‘e and Haena, Kaua‘i; Tantalus, O‘ahu<sup>(70)</sup>; and Captain Cook *mauka*.

**Environmental impact:** Tolerates shade. Invasive in wetter forests.

**Management:** Katie Cassel (Kōke‘e Museum) reports good control with triclopyr ester at 20% in crop oil applied basal bark. Probably sensitive to foliar applications of triclopyr.

