

Stachytarpheta dichotoma

Joee, oī, blue rattail

Stachytarpheta dichotoma (Ruiz & Pav.) Vahl
Syn. *S. cayennensis*

Family: Verbenaceae

Description: Semi-woody shrub to 6 ft tall, branches in forks. Leaves opposite, ovate, 4 inches long by 2 inches wide, hairy on upper surface, less so on lower, margins serrate. Terminal spikes to 1.5 ft, slender, with blue to violet and, rarely, white flowers. Black, dry seed nearly as wide as the spike, embedded in furrows in the spike. Several species and hybrids of *Stachytarpheta* are similar in appearance and are also called joee, probably a corruption of oī. *Verbena littoralis* is also called joee. Greek *stachys*, spike; *tarpheios*, dense, for dense flower spikes; *dichotoma*, forked, describing the forked branching of this plant^(69, 70).

Distribution: From tropical America, joee occurs in moist pastures and forests on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Lana'i, Maui, and Hawai'i. Naturalized in Hawai'i by 1871⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Invades forests and pastures in mesic to wet areas. Readily invades disturbed areas, often forming dense stands in high-rainfall areas. Also persists in lower densities in dry areas⁽⁶¹⁾.



Management: Sensitive to foliar application of 1 lb/acre of 2,4-D or MCPA. Less sensitive to other hormone-type herbicides, although it has been reported that drizzle application of triclopyr in water was effective in trials on Palau. Goats will not browse joee (An Peischel). Grubbing or pulling with care to remove larger roots can control scattered plants⁽⁶¹⁾.