

## Pilo

*Coprosma montana* Hillebr.

Madder or coffee family (Rubiaceae)

Native species (endemic)

The genus *Coprosma*, common name pilo, has about 13 named species of shrubs and small trees through the Hawaiian Islands. These species have paired short-stalked small elliptical leaves with paired scalelike pointed hairy stipules remaining on the slender twigs, small greenish or white flowers male and female on different plants, with tubular corolla 4–9-lobed, one to many borne mostly at leaf bases, and small round yellow, orange, or black fruits with two nutlets. One example follows.

Evergreen shrub or small tree to 26 ft (8 m) high and 3 inches (7.5 cm) in trunk diameter. Bark gray, smooth or slightly fissured. Twigs slender, green to gray, finely hairy.

Leaves opposite, hairless, with short slender leaf-stalks less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6 mm) long, and pointed hairy stipules  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch (3 mm) long, remaining at ringed nodes. Blades elliptical or lance-shaped,  $\frac{3}{8}$ –1 inch (10–25 mm) long and  $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (6–13 mm) wide, slightly thickened or thin, blunt or short-pointed at both ends, dull green above, paler beneath.

Flowers male and female on different plants (dioecious), single, stalkless or nearly so on twigs back of leaves, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6 mm) long. Female flowers have cup-shaped base (hypanthium) with calyx teeth, short tubular corolla with 5–6 lobes curved back, and pistil with inferior two-celled ovary and two styles. Male flowers have as many stamens as corolla lobes, attached near base of tube and extending beyond.

Fruits (drupes) rounded,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6 mm) in diameter, with calyx teeth at apex, shiny yellow to dark orange, turning black, containing two half-round nutlets. The fruit has a disagreeable flavor.

Wood light brown, hard. In another species of the genus, whitish yellow and soft.

The genus *Coprosma* is widespread in wet forests and mountain shrublands through the Hawaiian Islands. This species extends in mountains to high elevations, 6000–10,000 ft (1830–3048 m) on Mauna Kea, Hawaii. Other species reach tree size frequently in forests at 4000–8000 ft (1219–2438 m).

### **Special areas**

Haleakala, Volcanoes, Kipuka Puaulu

### **Champion**

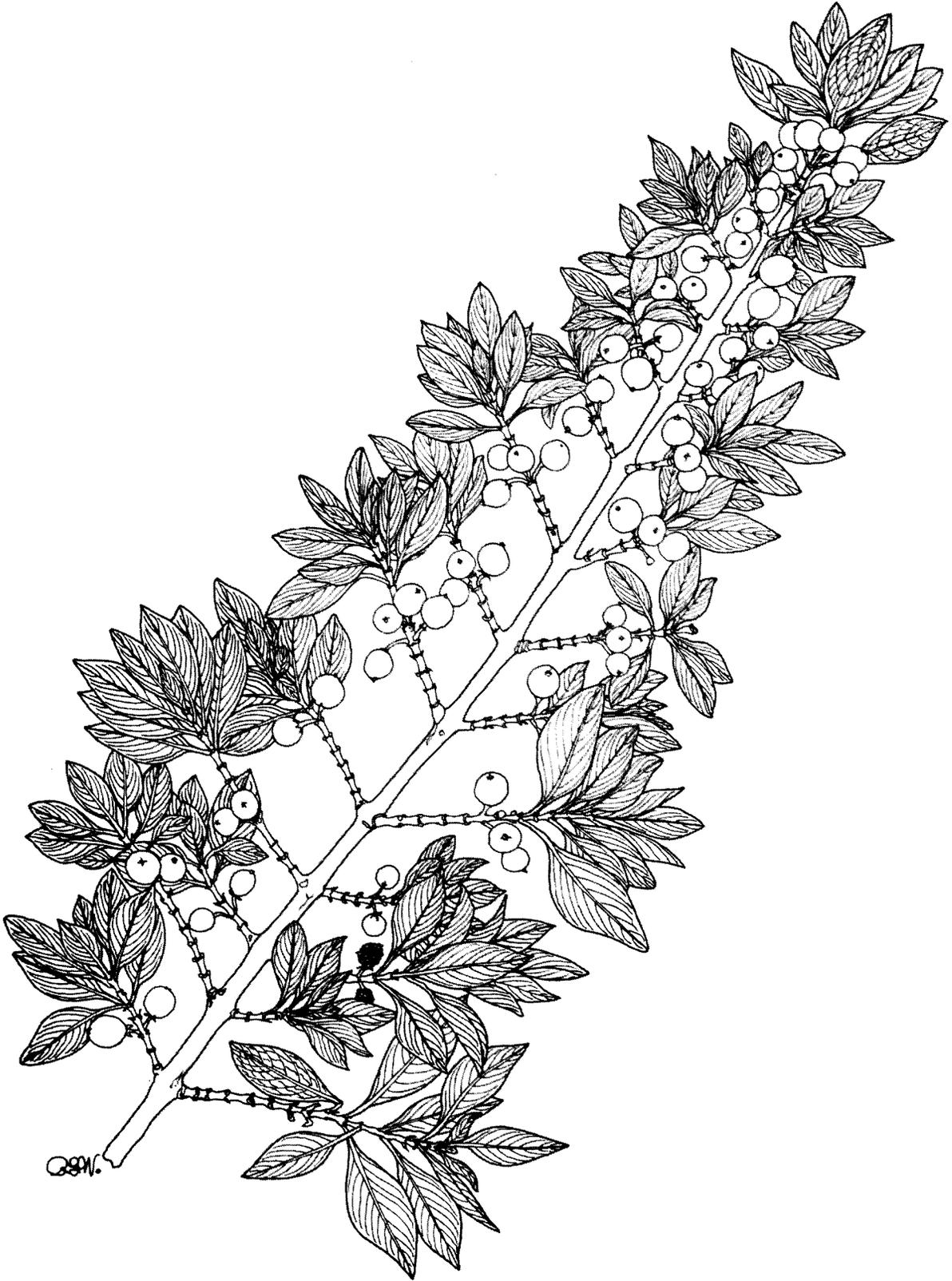
Height 35 ft (10.7 m), c.b.h. 3.7 ft (1.1 m), spread 29 ft (8.8 m). Mauna Kea Forest Reserve, Humuula, Hawaii (1968).

### **Range**

Restricted to Maui and Hawaii

### **Other common names**

pilo kuahiwi (meaning mountain pilo), hupilo



**Pilo**

*Coprosma montana* Hillebr.  
Twig with fruits, 1 X.