

'Iliahi, Freycinet sandalwood

Santalum freycinetianum Gaud.

Sandalwood family (Santalaceae)

Native species (endemic)

This species with its varieties will serve as an example of the red-flowered sandalwoods. Reported as a large tree to 82 ft (25 m) high and 3 ft (0.9 m) in trunk diameter in the natural forest, evergreen with slender drooping branches. Bark of small trunks gray, smoothish.

Leaves alternate, hairless, with leafstalk of $\frac{3}{8}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (1–2 cm), often reddish. Blades narrowly elliptic of lance-shaped, 2–4 inches (5–10 cm) long and $\frac{3}{4}$ – $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches (2–4 cm) wide, short-pointed at both ends, slightly turned under at edges, thin, more or less folded along midvein, somewhat curved, upper surface shiny dark green, lower surface dull and paler.

Flower clusters (cymes) terminal and lateral, branched. Flowers 3–9 or more, nearly stalkless, about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm) long yellowish to white, turning red in age, composed of narrow bell-shaped tube (hypanthium) with four-lobed calyx, four short stamens attached near base of tube and opposite lobes; and pistil with one-celled ovary partly inferior, threadlike style, and stigma mostly three-lobed.

Fruit (drupe) elliptical, $\frac{5}{16}$ – $\frac{5}{8}$ inch (8–15 mm) long, with ring scar at apex, purplish black with a bloom, within greenish and juicy.

Fairly common in dry forests of both Waianae and Koolau Ranges, Oahu. More common in the Waianae Range which is drier, especially at 800–2000 ft (244–610 m).

Special areas

Aiea, Waimea Arboretum, Kamehameha School

Range

Oahu, Kauai, Lanai, and Maui

This species was greatly reduced as a forest tree during the early part of the last century because of the export of the fragrant wood. Its name commemorates Henri Louis Claude de Saulces de Freycinet (1779–1840), leader of a French world expedition in 1817–20. The generic name is derived from the Greek name for sandalwood.

Besides the typical variety on Oahu, two varieties formerly treated as species, are distinguished: Kauai sandalwood, *Santalum freycinetianum* var. *pyrularium* (Gray) Stemm., on Kauai, and Lanai sandalwood, *S. freycinetianum* var. *lanaiense* Rock, on Lanai and Maui, listed as endangered.

The two other species of sandalwood native to Hawaii are:

Hawaii sandalwood, *Santalum paniculatum* Hook. & Arn., grows on the Island of Hawaii in dry forests and lava fields at 1500–6500 ft (457–1981 m), sometimes to 8000 ft (2438 m). It has greenish flowers and may be seen at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park near Volcano House.

Haleakala sandalwood, *Santalum haleakalae* Hillebr., grows on Maui at 6000–8800 ft (1829–2682 m). Large clusters of flowers that become deep red as they age make this the most beautiful species. It is easily seen near Hosmer Grove in Haleakala National Park.



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Flowering twig, 1/2 X; flowers and fruits (below), 2 X (Degener).