

## A'ia'i, Hawaiian false-mulberry

*Streblus pendulinus* (Endl.) F. Muell.

Mulberry family (Moraceae)

Native species (indigenous)

Small slender evergreen tree native through the islands in wet and dry forests. Characterized by milky sap, shiny, finely toothed leaves alternate in two rows, and rounded brownish purple fleshy fruits about  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (1 cm) long. Usually small tree or shrub, sometimes to 40 ft (12 m) high, with trunk to 2 ft (0.6 m) in diameter, slightly enlarged at base. Bark light gray, smooth. Inner bark yellowish within green outer layer, fibrous, almost tasteless, with bitter white sap or latex. Twigs becoming brown and nearly hairless, with stipules forming bud  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch (5 mm) long and leaving ring scars at leaf bases.

Leaves alternate in two rows, with paired pointed greenish stipules soon failing and with short finely hairy leafstalk about  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch (5 mm) long. Blades oblong to lance-shaped, short-pointed at apex, rounded or slightly notched at base, finely toothed on edges, thin, with 10–12 straight veins on each side, above dark green and hairless, beneath light green with raised yellowish veins slightly hairy.

Flowers male and female mostly on different trees (dioecious). Male flowers in long narrow clusters (spikes) to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches (11 cm) long and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6 mm) wide, very numerous, crowded, whitish to purplish, about  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch (5 mm) long, consisting of four-lobed finely hairy calyx and 4 spreading stamens. Female flowers few in short cluster (spike) less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (13 mm) long, composed of four-lobed calyx and pistil with green ovary and two spreading stigmas.

Fruits (drupes) few, rounded, brownish purple, about  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (1 cm) long, slightly flattened and pointed, hairless, shiny with calyx at base, juicy sweetish white flesh, and rounded stone  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6 mm) long.

The wood is described as light brown, fine-textured, hard, and tough. That of a related species in Australia was used for boomerangs.

Uncommon in wet and dry forests from near sea level to about 5300 ft (1676 m) altitude. Recorded from Kauai, Oahu, Lanai, Molokai, Maui, and Hawaii.

### Special area

Kokee

### Champion

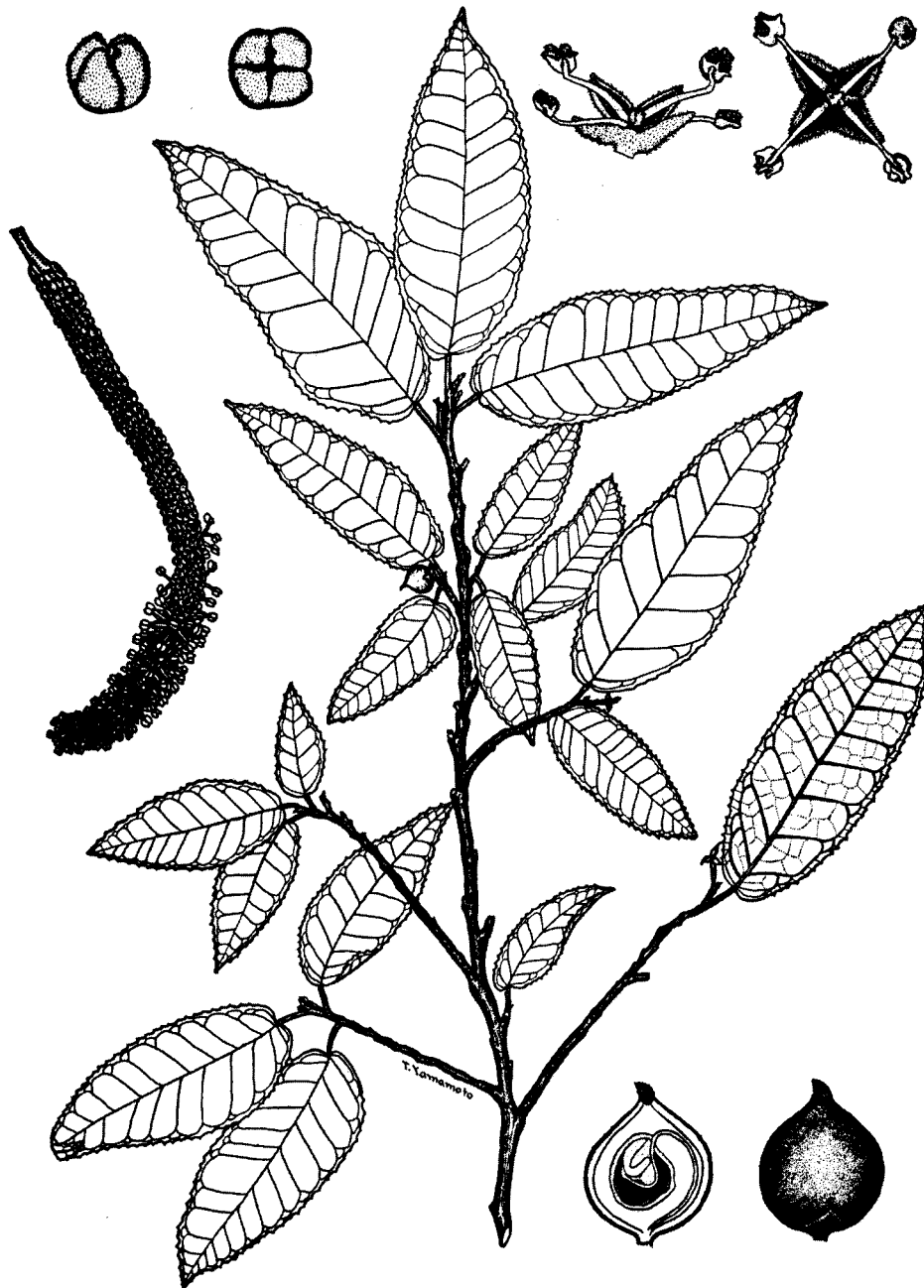
Height 38 ft (11.6 m), c.b.h. 4 ft (1.2 m), spread 20 ft (6.1 m). Kaupulehu, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii (1968).

### Range

New Guinea to Micronesia, S to Norfolk Island., E Australia, New Hebrides, Fiji, Rapa, and Hawaii

### Botanical synonyms

*Pseudomorus sandwicensis* Deg., *P. brunoniana* var. *sandwicensis* (Deg.) Skottsb., *Streblus sandwicensis* (Deg.) St. John



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Twig with fruit, ½ X; female and male flowers (above), 5 X;  
male flower cluster (left), 1 X; fruits (lower right), 2 X (Degener).