

## A'e

*Zanthoxylum oahuense* Hillebr.

Rue or citrus family (Rutaceae)

Native species (endemic)

A handsome small aromatic evergreen tree of wet forests of Oahu, characterized by leaves with three long-stalked ovate or rounded leaflets, small greenish flowers, and small podlike fruits that split open on one side. To 16 ft (5 m) in height. Bark smoothish, with yellow dots, thin. Twigs stout, rough, hairless, with raised yellow dots and raised large rounded leaf-scars.

Leaves alternate, 5–8 inches (13–20 cm) long, hairless, compound, with long slender leafstalk of 2–4 inches (5–10 cm) and three leaflets with long slender stalks of 1¼–3 inches (3–7.5 cm), jointed above middle. Leaflets broadly ovate or rounded, 1½–3 inches (4–7.5 cm) long and 1¼–2½ inches (3–6 cm) wide, abruptly long-pointed at apex, rounded or blunt at base, the two lateral also unequal or one-sided, not toothed on edges, slightly thickened, the upper surface shiny dark green and curved up slightly, with side veins inconspicuous, the lower surface dull green, brownish when dry, with gland dots visible under a lens.

Flower clusters (panicles) at leaf bases, 2½–4½ inches (6–11 cm) long, branched, with several flowers on spreading stalks, mostly male and female on different plants (dioecious), ¾ inch (5 mm) long, with calyx of four minute finely hairy lobes and corolla of 4 greenish yellow petals overlapping in bud; male flowers with 4 stamens nearly ⅛ inch (3 mm) long; female flowers have greenish pistil with ovary and stigma.

Fruits (follicles) ½ inch (13 mm) long, elliptical, rough, dark brown, splitting open on one side. Seed single, elliptical, ⅜ inch (10 mm) long, slightly rough, shiny black.

Wood is light yellow, fine-textured, rather soft with a prominent figure on tangential faces resulting from parenchyma tissue.

This species occurs in wet forests at middle altitudes on Oahu.

### Range

Oahu only, recorded from Konahuanui, Niu Valley, and Koolau Range, to about 2500 ft (762 m) altitude.

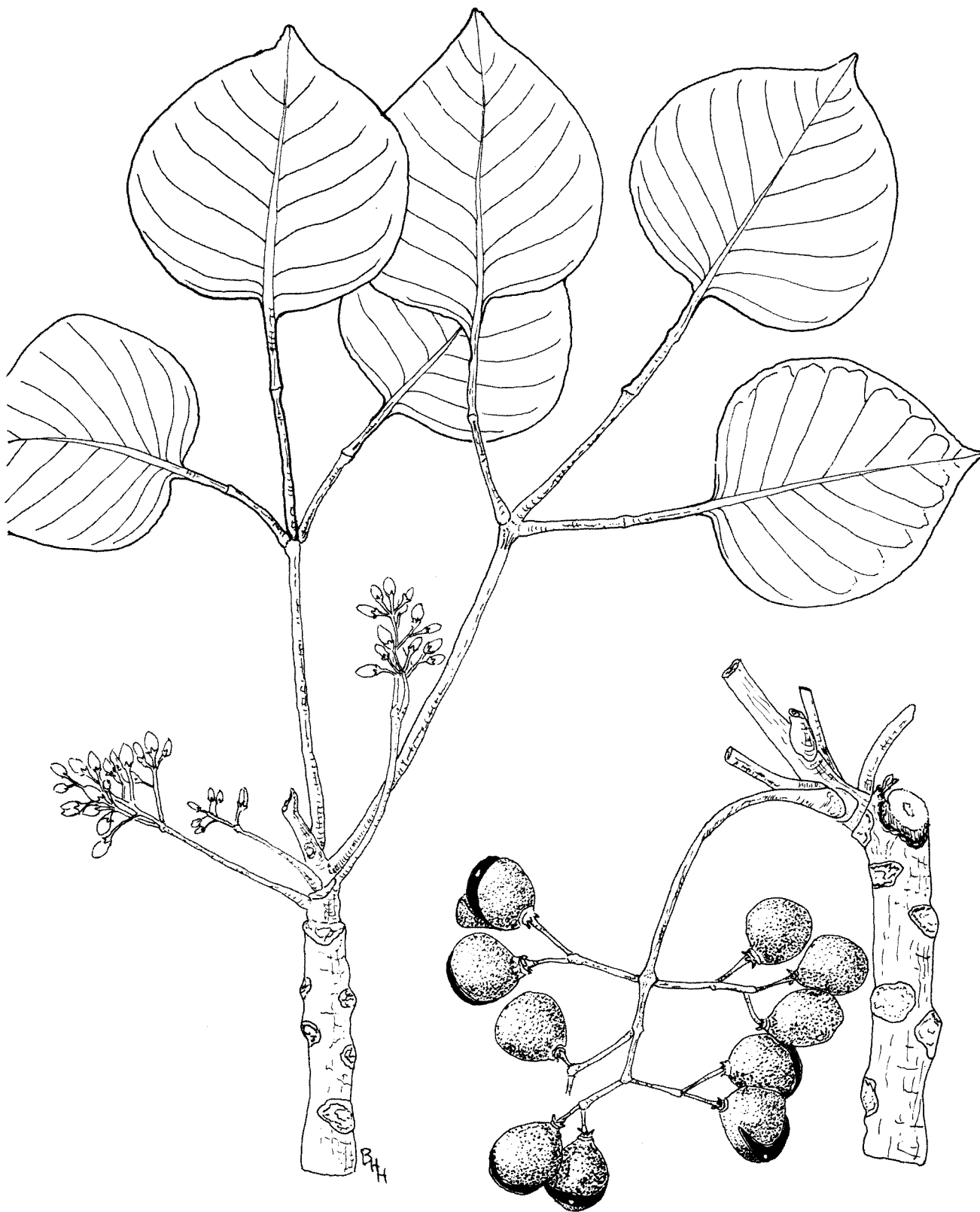
### Other common name

hea'e

### Botanical synonym

*Fagara oahuensis* (Hillebr.) Engler

The generic name from Greek, yellow and wood, has been spelled also *Xanthoxylum*. Nine species have been described from the Hawaiian Islands, all endemic. They vary from shrubs to large trees and occur in both wet and dry forests. Leaves have a resinous citruslike odor.



**A'e**

*Zanthoxylum oahuense* Hillebr.

Twig with leaves and female flowers, and fruits (lower right), 1 X.