

Ageratina adenophora

Maui pāmākani

Ageratina adenophora (Spreng.)
R. King & H. Robinson
Syn. *Eupatorium adenophorum*

Family: Asteraceae

Description: Malodorous, semi-woody, erect shrub, to 5 ft tall. Stems usually purple, hairy. Leaves simple, opposite, diamond- or triangular shaped, up to 6 inches long by 3 inches wide, darker on upper surface, margins serrate. Terminal inflorescences, erect heads, white. Seeds reddish brown. [A closely related species is *Ageratina riparia* (Regel) R. King & H. Robinson, syn. *Eupatorium riparium*, Hāmākua pāmākani or spreading mist flower. Spreading, soft shrub with rooting stems. Leaves narrow, 3 inches long by 0.6 inches wide, margins serrate. Flowers white, seeds black. Native to Mexico and West Indies. Occurs in dry to wet habitats at sea level to 3600 ft on O‘ahu, Moloka‘i, Maui, and Hawai‘i. First collected on Hawai‘i in 1930.] *Ageratina* from the Greek *ageratos*, never growing old, for the flowers that persist; *adenophora*, glandular for hairy glands on bracts; *riparia*, of river banks⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Distribution: Native to Mexico and the West Indies. A problem in tropical Australia. Occurs in dry to wet forests on O‘ahu, Lana‘i, Moloka‘i, and Maui at 900–6000 ft elevation. Introduced on Maui prior to 1886⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Prolific seeder, displaces understory in forests and forages in pastures and prevents re-establishment of native species. Unpalatable to cattle and toxic to horses, causing “blowing disease” in Hawai‘i⁽⁶¹⁾.

Management: Under biocontrol by the fungus *Cercospora* sp.⁽¹⁸⁾, but populations flare locally at times. Susceptible to hormone-type herbicides and glyphosate. May be controlled by slashing, followed by ripping or plowing, then sowing a desirable pasture species⁽⁶¹⁾.



Ageratina riparia, Hāmākua pāmākani, spreading mist flower