

Ardisia elliptica

Shoebuttan ardisia

Ardisia elliptica Thunb.
Syn. *A. humilis*

Family: Myrsinaceae

Description: Branched shrub to 12 ft tall. Leaves smooth, alternate, 3.5 inches by 1.5 inches, often reddish when young. Inflorescences in axils, 5 pointed petals, lavender white. Fruits clustered, red maturing to black, single seeded. Used as an ornamental. [*Ardisia crenata* Sims, Hilo holly or hens eyes, is a smaller relative up to 5 ft tall, unbranched save for inflorescences. Leaves short-stemmed, alternate, 8 inches by 1.5 inches with numerous lateral nerves or veins, raised on the lower surface, which merge with marginal nerves usually hidden under the rolled margins. Margins also wavy, hence *crenata*. Flowers on inflorescence branches, 1.5 inches long, white or pinkish. Fruit dark red, 0.25 inches diameter. *A. crenata* occurs in Mānoa and Windward O‘ahu and around Hilo, Hawai‘i]. *Ardis*, arrow point, reference to shape of the anthers; *elliptica* refers to shape of leaves^(5, 70).

Distribution: Native to Sri Lanka. A weed in south Florida and the Everglades⁽⁶³⁾. Occurs in wet forests and pastures on Maui; Princeville, Kaua‘i; Hilo, Hawai‘i. Reported naturalized on O‘ahu. Also observed as an ornamental in Kailua-Kona, Hawai‘i. Introduced prior to 1939⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Prolific seeder. Spread by birds. Forms dense stands in pastures and disturbed forests.

Management: Susceptible to 2,4-D. Triclopyr, dicamba, and metsulfuron not as effective. Spraying regrowth after mowing with 2,4-D very effective. Tebuthiuron at 2 lb/acre effective. Kline and Duquesnel⁽³⁰⁾ reported good control with triclopyr ester at 10% in diesel applied to basal bark. Glyphosate foliar and triclopyr basal bark effective⁽⁶³⁾. Susceptible to very-low-volume basal bark applications of Pathfinder II®, a ready-to-use formulation of triclopyr.

