

Arthrostemum ciliatum

Arthrostemum

Arthrostemum ciliatum Pav. ex D. Don
Syn *A. latifolium*

Family: Melastomataceae

Description: Sprawling perennial herb. Leaves opposite, ovate, 1.5 inches long by 1.8 inches wide with 5 or 7 prominent veins, stiff hairs. Stems angled canes to 12 ft long. Flower buds red, bloom into pink flowers, 4 petals, 1 inch long, 8 stamens. Fruits cup-like, seeds very small, numerous, coiled appearance. Greek *arthron*, joint; *stemon*, stamen; or jointed stamen; *ciliatum*, fringed with bristles, referring to leaf margins^(5, 70).

Distribution: Probably introduced as an ornamental. Native to tropical America. Naturalized on O'ahu and in pastures, forests, and roadsides in East and West Hawai'i. Common along the highway to Volcano in the Pana'ewa area⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Sprawling growth smothers smaller plants in pastures and along forest edges.



Management: Sensitive to foliar applied triclopyr at 1 lb/acre; dicamba less effective; 2,4-D poor.