

Coccinia grandis

Ivy gourd, scarlet-fruited gourd

Coccinia grandis (L.) Voigt

Family: Cucurbitaceae

Description: Climbing, green vine, capable of smothering tall trees, stems covered with fine stiff hairs. Separate male and female plants. Leaves broad, 4 inches by 4 inches, ivy shaped, sometimes deeply lobed, smooth upper surface, fine stiff hairs beneath. Flowers year round, blossoms solitary, 1.25 inches diameter, white. Fruit 2 inches long, bright red at maturity, pulp red, seed tan. Roots tuberous. Shoots and fruits used in Southeast Asian cooking, which is probably the cause of its introduction and spread. Seedlings have been sold in flea markets. Also spread by rats and birds that feed on the fruit. *Coccineus*, scarlet for fruit; *grandis*, large^(69,70).

Distribution: Native to Africa, Asia, and Australia. In Hawai'i, spreading between Mānoa and Kailua on O'ahu and in the Kailua-Kona area on Hawai'i. There is a small infestation in Kalaheo on Kaua'i that HDOA is attempting to eradicate. Ivy gourd plants have also been found on Maui (Hawai'i Ecosystem at Risk Project <<http://www.hear.org/ivygourd>>). First collected on Univ. of Hawai'i Mānoa campus in 1986⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Smothers tall trees. A threat to dry to mesic forests.



Management: Susceptible to basal bark applications of 2,4-D or triclopyr; however, finding basal stems is difficult in dense stands. Foliar applications of 2,4-D, glyphosate, or metsulfuron ineffective; triclopyr and dicamba, each at 1 lb/acre, provided excellent knockdown of foliage. This suggests knockdown of foliage followed by basal stem treatments when the plants begin to re-sprout may be successful. Seeds do not exhibit dormancy so ivy gourd may be eradicable from a defined area.