

Kalanchoe pinnata

Air plant

Kalanchoe pinnata (Lam.) Pers.
Syn. *Bryophyllum pinnatum*

Family: Crassulaceae

Description: Perennial herb, up to 6 ft tall, smooth, stems hollow. Reproduces by adventitious roots at base. Leaves succulent, simple at base and at top, pinnately compound in the middle of the plant, 3–5 leaflets. Simple leaves 8 inches long by 4 inches wide, margins crenate (rounded teeth), capable of producing bulbs at margins (hence the common name). Flowers hanging in clusters, maroon corolla emerging from tubular, lobed sepal, sepal green with red blush. [A relative from Madagascar, *Kalanchoe tubiflora* (Harv.) Raym. Hamet, the chandelier plant, occurs in similar environments on the inhabited islands except Moloka'i and Ni'ihau. Its leaves are simple, in threes at each node, radially arranged on upright stem, greenish brown, may have reddish brown to black splotches, almost cylindrical, 1.5–6 inches long by 0.2 inches wide, upper surface with a single longitudinal groove. Margin near tip with 3–9 conical teeth between which bulbs are produced. Leaves fall at floral bloom. Flowers pendant in flat-topped clusters (the chandelier), the tubular sepals 0.2 inches long, the corolla 1.6 inches long, orange-red. Naturalized by 1930.]



Kalanchoe tubiflora, chandelier plant

Generic name from the Chinese name for one species of this genus; *pinnata* for the compound leaves; *tubiflora* for tubular flowers^(5,70).



Distribution: Origin unknown; widely dispersed in tropics. Invasive in the Galapagos in humid zones and especially in dry zones⁽³¹⁾. On all the main Hawaiian Islands except Ni'ihau and Kaho'olawe in humid and dry zones. Introduced prior to 1871⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Forms dense stands in disturbed mesic and dry natural areas.

Management: Apparently cannot withstand trampling by animals; thrives in pastures only on rock piles and on fence lines. Susceptible to 2,4-D and probably other hormone-type herbicides. Katie Cassel (Kōke'e Museum) reported effective control with drizzle application of glyphosate at 10% product in water.