

Melochia umbellata

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Melochia umbellata (Houtt.) Stapf.

Family: Sterculiaceae

Description: Small tree, 45 ft tall, young stems hairy. Leaves broad, heart shaped, 1 ft long, 6 inches wide. Flowers in open clusters, small, variable colors: pink, red, yellow, blue, purple, or violet. Capsules 0.4 inches long, green, brown, or purplish red, deeply grooved. Seeds brown, 1 inch long. Generic name from the Arabic name for a different plant; *umbellata* refers to the umbel (flat top) structure of the inflorescences⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Distribution: Native to India, SW Asia, Malesia to New Guinea. On Hawai'i, common in Hilo and Puna districts. Aerially seeded in Wai'akea in 1928. Occurs also on O'ahu, Lana'i, Maui, and other parts of Hawai'i. Introduced prior to 1871⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Infests pastures and forests.

Management: Sensitive to 2,4-D and dicamba and probably to other hormone-type herbicides. HAVO staff reported control with triclopyr amine at 10% of product in water applied to cut stumps (Chris Zimmer, HAVO). Sensitive to glyphosate.

