Paraserianthes falcataria

Molucca albizia, sau

Paraserianthes falcataria (L.) I. Nielson
Syn. *Adenanthera falcataria, Albizia falcata, A. falcataria*

Family: Fabaceae

Description: Large deciduous tree, to 100 ft tall, broad thin crown, bark light gray, with warts, smooth, inner bark pink. Leaves alternate, bipinnate, 1 ft long, hairy, primary leaf stems with 10–12 divisions, each 2–4 inches long, each with 15–20 pairs of leaflets, 0.8 inches long by 0.2 inches wide, dull green above, paler below. Flower clusters large, branched, many flowers, bell-shaped, greenish white corolla, many threadlike stamens extending beyond the corolla. Pods narrow and flat, 5 inches long, green turning brown, splitting at maturity. Seeds 20, long, flat, dark brown. Name from the Greek *serikon*, silk, and *anthos*, flowers, for *Serianthes*, a related genus named for the silky appearance of the flowers; *para*, near, or close to *Serianthes*; *falcata*, sickle-shaped, for the pods[5, 70].

Distribution: Native to New Guinea, New Britain, and the Solomon Islands. Introduced into Hawai‘i in 1917 by Joseph Rock. Widely planted in reforestation projects. Now naturalized. Common; occurs in low, mesic to wet forests on Kaua‘i at Moloa‘a Forest Reserve; Mānoa, Pālolo, and Foster Botanical Garden on O‘ahu; Moloka‘i; Lava Tree State Park in Puna, Hawai‘i; and along roadsides and in gardens throughout the state[32].

Environmental impact: High, broad canopy shades out other plants. A nitrogen-fixer, it may stimulate growth of non-natives better able to respond to increased soil nitrogen.

Management: Very susceptible to hormone-type herbicides. Severely injured by cut-surface application of 2,4-D and by glyphosate; killed by dicamba and triclopyr. Susceptible to basal bark applications of triclopyr. HAVO staff report control with triclopyr amine at 10% product in water applied to cut stumps (Chris Zimmer, HAVO). Reportedly susceptible to being killed by root damage by heavy equipment.