

Passiflora mollissima

Banana poka

Passiflora tarminiana Coppins and Barney

Family: Passifloraceae

Description: Liana. Leaves trilobed, 6 inches long by 8 inches wide, covered with soft hairs. Flowers pendant, pink, 10 petals, 3.5 inches diameter, 5 stamens with bright yellow anthers, 3 pistils with light green stigmas. Fruit a green elongated berry ripening to yellow, 3 inches long, 1.5 inches diameter⁽⁷⁰⁾. *Mollissima*, covered by soft hairs⁽⁵⁾. Mistakenly known as *P. mollissima* in Hawaii until recently.

Distribution: Native to the Andes. A serious pest in mesic wet forests on Kaua'i and Hawai'i. Spread by pigs and birds. First collected in 1926 on Hawai'i⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Smothers even tall trees in forests, forming a shroud.



Management: Chemical control difficult because of large, inaccessible biomass often growing over non-target plants. Controlled grazing may be possible in some areas. Santos et al.⁽⁶⁴⁾ reported 5%, 50%, and 100% glyphosate, and triclopyr at the same concentrations, effective in killing cut stumps, but many vines re-rooted if not treated. HAVO staff reported control with triclopyr amine, 10% of product in water applied to cut stumps (Chris Zimmer, HAVO). Katie Cassel (Kōke'e Museum) reported no regrowth of 15 "stumps" following pulling with no herbicide treatment.