

Rivina humilis

Coral berry

Rivina humilis L.

Family: Phytolaccaceae

Description: Upright shrubby herb to 3 ft tall. Leaves 2–4 inches long, 1.6 inches wide, smooth or with short fine hairs especially along veins, margins entire. Petioles slender, to 1.5 inches long with short, fine hairs on upper surface. White flowers on upright cylindrical clusters followed by juicy fruits 0.1 inches diameter, red, orange, or purple^(59, 70). Fruit juice used as dye, leaves as medicine in Mexico. Reportedly poisonous⁽⁵⁹⁾.



Distribution: Native to the southern USA down to South America. Naturalized in Hawai'i by 1871. Occurs in lower-elevation dry to mesic pastures and forests. Does well in shade. Found on Kaua'i (Waimea Canyon), O'ahu (Roundtop), and Hawai'i (Kona)⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Displaces small understory natives.

Management: Sensitive to MCPA and triclopyr but re-treatment probably needed.