

Rubus rosifolius

Thimbleberry

Rubus rosifolius Sm.

Family: Rosaceae

Description: Small prickly shrub, 6 ft tall. Leaves pinnately compound, 5–7 leaflets, each 3 inches long by 1.2 inches wide. Flowers 1–3, white. Fruit red, 1.4 inches long, separates from the base (perianth) when picked, leaving the fruit a hollow “thimble.” Moist to wet pastures, forests, and waste lands. *Rosifolius*, leaves resembling that of the rose plant^(5, 70).

Distribution: Native to Asia, widely distributed in the tropics. Occurs on all the main islands of Hawai‘i except Ni‘ihau and Kaho‘olawe. Introduced to the island of Hawai‘i in the 1880s from Jamaica⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: A nuisance in pastures and natural areas, where it displaces desirable plants and interferes with passage and use of the land.



Management: Sensitive to triclopyr ester in water and very sensitive to triclopyr ester in a crop oil carrier, each applied by the drizzle method at 1 lb/acre. HAVO staff reported control with foliar application of either glyphosate at 1% product or triclopyr ester at 1% product in water (Chris Zimmer, HAVO).