Apple of Sodom

*Solanum linnaeanum* Hepper & P. Jaeger
Syn. *S. sodomeum*

Family: Solanaceae

**Description:** Semiwoody, upright, branched shrub to 4 ft tall. Stems and leaves armed with prickles. Leaves simple, alternate, deeply lobed, 3 inches long by 2.4 inches wide, more hairy beneath. Flowers purplish-blue in clusters. Berries 1 inch diameter, yellow at maturity, brown when dry, persist when plant is defoliated by drought. Seeds pale brown, many. *Solanum* the Latin name for a plant in this genus; *linnaeanum* in honor of Linnaeus, the father of modern taxonomy\(^{(70)}\). [\(S.\ capsicoides\), kikânia lei, similar in appearance but with red fruits used in making lei\(^{(70)}\). Not as common as *S. linnaeanum*. Capsicoides refers to red fruit\(^{(69)}\).]

**Distribution:** Native to Africa, occurs on O‘ahu, Moloka‘i, Lana‘i, Maui, and Hawai‘i in dry pastures and forests. Collected on O‘ahu in 1895\(^{(70)}\). Abundant at South Point, Hawai‘i.

**Environmental impact:** Infests dry pastures and forests, displacing other plants and hindering movement of people and animals.

**Management:** Sensitive to foliar-applied dicamba. Susceptible to soil-applied tebuthiuron at 2 lb/acre\(^{(48)}\). Goats control apple-of-Sodom (An Peischel). Seedlings are easily killed by cultivation or pulling\(^{(61)}\).