

Solanum linnaeanum

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*, kīkānia 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⁾.