

Solanum torvum

Turkeyberry

Solanum torvum Sw.

Family: Solanaceae

Description: Large shrub, branched, to 12 ft tall, hairy, armed with prickles on stems and leaves. Leaves simple, alternate, broadly ovate, more deeply lobed when young, prickles on both surfaces, densely hairy on lower surface. Flowers 1 inch diameter, in dense inflorescences, white. Fruits in clusters, dull yellow when mature, 0.6 inches diameter, used in southeast Asian cuisine. Seeds numerous. *Torvum*, sharp^(19, 70).

Distribution: Native to the Antilles, now pantropical. Occurs in Kāneʻohe and Pālolo on Oʻahu, Kaʻū on Hawaiʻi, and along Īʻao Stream, in Kuiaha Gulch, and at the Maluhia Boy Scout Camp on Maui. The Boy Scout Camp infestation was apparently the result of contaminated fill from Īʻao Stream being stored there (E. Tamura, HDOA, retired).

Environmental impact: Infests pastures in solid stands that shade out undergrowth. Because of spines, interferes with passage of people and animals.



Management: Sensitive to foliar-applied triclopyr and soil-applied tebuthiuron.