

# Tetrazygia bicolor

## Tetrazygia

*Tetrazygia bicolor* (Mill.) Cogn.  
Syn. *Melastoma bicolor*

Family: Melastomataceae

**Description:** Branched shrub to 18 ft tall. Stems round to somewhat angled, may be covered with silvery scales. Leaves ovate-lanceolate, to 4 inches long, upper surface smooth, lower covered with silvery scales, 3–5 prominent veins, hairy at junction of primary veins, margins entire, base rounded, apex pointed. Inflorescences in clusters, flowers with 5 white petals and with prominent yellow anthers. Berries small, blue-black with a constricted neck at the top. *Tetra*, four, *zygon*, yoke, four parts in floral whorls of plants after which this genus was named<sup>(70)</sup>; *bicolor*, two colors of the flower<sup>(19)</sup>.

**Distribution:** Native to the Bahamas, Cuba, and Florida. Naturalized in wetter forests and waste areas in and around Hilo and into Puna. First collected in 1958<sup>(70)</sup>.



**Environmental impact:** Poses a potential threat to invade disturbed forests.

**Management:** No work done but work on other melastomes may be transferable.