

Thunbergia grandifolia

Bengal trumpet, blue trumpet vine

Thunbergia grandifolia Roxb.

Family: Acanthaceae

Description: Climbing vine. Leaves to 8 inches long, 6 inches wide, somewhat arrowhead-shaped, margins with wide-spaced teeth. Flowers 3 inches diameter, in pendant clusters, blue or white, with pale yellow throat; blooms year-round. [Closely related and similar in appearance is the purple allamanda, *Thunbergia laurifolia* Lindl. Its leaves are more ovate, 6 inches long by 2 inches wide, margins entire. Flowers pale blue with white or yellow throats. Also from India, it occurs on Kaua‘i and O‘ahu, along trails.] *Thunbergia* after Carl Peter Thunberg (d. 1822), Swedish botanist and explorer; *grandiflora*, large flower; *laurifolia*, laurel-like leaves^(59, 70).

Distribution: Native to India. Cultivated in Hawai‘i but naturalized along hiking trails on Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, and Hawai‘i. First collected on O‘ahu in 1937⁽⁷⁰⁾. A common ornamental, grows wild along the highway between Līhu‘e and ‘Ele‘ele on Kaua‘i and along the Old Pali Road on O‘ahu.

Environmental impact: Enshrouds even tall trees and shrubs. In agricultural areas it infests roadsides and pastures, forming impenetrable thickets⁽⁶¹⁾.



Management: Foliar applications probably impractical because of risk to non-target hosts. Work needed on treating the foliage and stems on the ground. Aerial growth may be killed with 2,4-D or glyphosate but plants resprout from tubers. In cut-stump treatments, 2,4-D in kerosene with surfactant was effective in Australia. Triclopyr also appears promising in trials⁽⁶¹⁾.