Expanding Tree Diversity in Hawai‘i’s Landscapes: ‘A‘ali‘i, Kumakani; *Dodonaea viscosa*

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This small tree, indigenous to the Hawaiian Islands, can grow up to 25 feet tall, with a spread of 5–15 feet. ‘A‘ali‘i is useful in a variety of landscape applications as it can withstand drought, high winds, and salty conditions. The female tree’s papery fruits come in a variety of colors. ‘A‘ali‘i thrives in dry, well-drained soils and full sunlight, which makes it ideal for xeriscaping. Many leaf forms and growth habits exist, and pruning and training are necessary to develop a tree.

**Recommended Use in Landscapes**
- Xeriscapes
- Windbreaks
- Screen
- Specimen tree
- Sand binder
- Hedge plant

**Distribution**
- Wide distribution in the tropics

**Propagation Techniques**
- To propagate from seed, remove fruit pulp and immerse seeds in near-boiling water. Let water cool and continue to soak seeds in it for up to 2 days before planting.

**Cultural Requirements and Tolerance**
- Thrives in a large range of conditions
- Needs well-drained soil
- Very drought, wind, and salt tolerant
• Pruning required to maintain tree form
• Will be more tree-like if given shade and moisture

**Flower and Fruit Characteristics**
• Plants bear either male or female flowers, white and inconspicuous. Some bisexual forms exist.
• Papery winged fruits vary in size (\(\frac{3}{8}\) inch to 2 inches) and color: white, green, red, chartreuse, and purplish

**Leaf Characteristics**
• Simple, 1–4 inches long
• Glossy
• Variable in shape and color; mostly elliptic

**Advantages for Use in Landscapes**
• Easily propagated
• Suitable for problematic areas in the landscape
• Suitable for xeriscapes
• Female trees used in lei making (male does not fruit)

**Disadvantages for Use in Landscapes**
• Susceptible to mealybugs, scales, thrips, and aphids
• High variation in phenotypes among seedlings
• Dying brown fruits can be unsightly
• Does not tolerate poor drainage

**Acknowledgements**
The authors thank Amanda Birnbaum for the many photographs she contributed to this publication.