



Miconia calvescens DC., MICA20 Scientific name & Code Synonyms - none Melastomataceae – Melastome Family Family: Perennial Shrub/Tree **Duration/Growth Habit:** English - velvet tree, bush currant, miconia, purple plague, velvetleaf **Common names:** Central and South America Origin: Tall, branched tree to 15 m high. Young Branchlets, inflorescences, and **Description:** bracts stellate-puberulous. Leaves large, opposite, 17-40+ cm long, 7-15 cm wide, 3-nerved, ovate, velvety, green and shiny on upper surface. purple below. Panicle 20-30 (50) cm long with paired primary branches with many 5-merous, sessile, white-petaled flowers. Calyx about 3 mm long, petals 2-3 mm long. **Propagation:** Prolific seed producer. Spread by wind, water, birds, and other animals. **Distribution:** Identified in Hawaii (Hawai'i, Kaua'i, Maui, O'ahu) Habitat/Ecology: Invasive tree of forests, forest edges, and grasslands. Common to riparian habitats and humid thickets from lowland to montane tropical forests from sea level to 5000 foot elevations. Reproduces even in dense shade. **Environmental impact:** Highly invasive tree of mesic and wet forests (>60 inches of rain/year). A single plant can produce over 1 million seeds that are spread by birds, or in soil on shoes, equipment, or hooves of animals..Shade tolerant and fast growing, forms dense stands with heavy shade that replace native species, alter habitats, and contributes to soil erosion (the weak root system does not hold soil well and dense canopy prevents the establishment of a herbaceous ground cover). Management: Physical – Smaller saplings can be dug out by hand. Chemical – Sensitive to triclopyr ester in foliar applications to cut surfaces and as basal bark treatments, and also to glyphosate applied to cut surfaces. Biological – Two fungal pathogens are available as bio agents. Colletotrichum gloesoporiodes f. sp. miconae has been released and is under evaluation. Coccodiella myconae produces large wart-like growths that deform leaves. Other potential fungal agents include a tar spot disease (Guignardia sp.) and a leaf blight (Kuronomyces sp.)

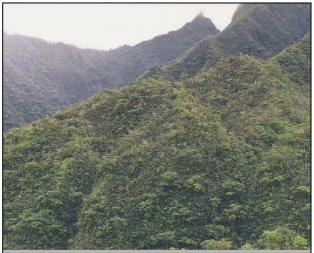
PIER Risk Assessment: High Risk, score: 14



a) Miconia Leaves and flowers







b) Almost pure stand of Miconia – trees will eventually be displaced



d) Miconia leaves – lower surface

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