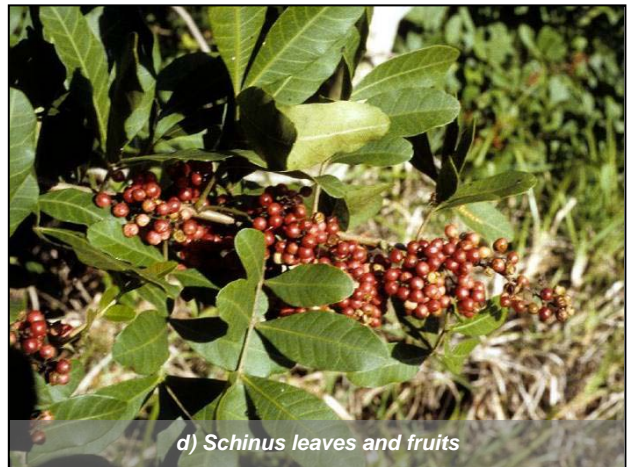
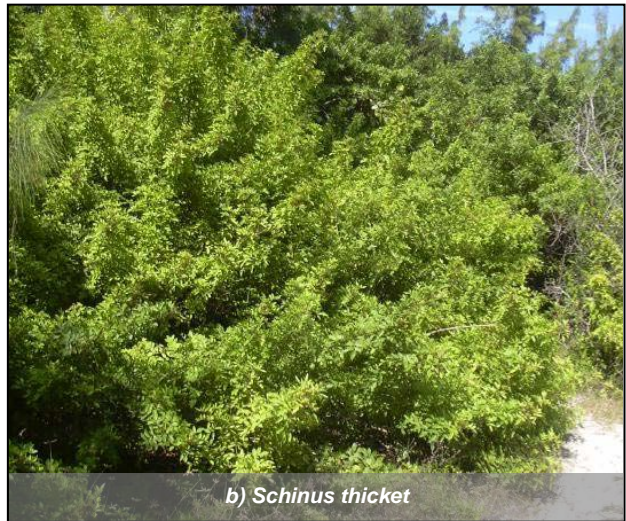




Christmas berry (*Schinus terebinthifolius*)

- Scientific name & Code** *Schinus terebinthifolius* Raddi., **SCTE**
Synonyms - none
- Family:** Anacardiaceae – Sumac Family
- Duration/Growth Habit:** Perennial Tree/Shrub
- Common names:** English – Brazilian pepper, Christmas berry, Florida holly
Hawaiian – naniohilo, wilelaki
- Origin:** South America, probably eastern and southern Brazil.
- Description:** Multiple stemmed evergreen shrub or small tree 2-6 m high with smooth grey bark. Stem and twigs exude a resinous sap that turns black on exposure to air. Leaves compound often winged, with 5-9 leaflets 1.5-7.5 cm long, lanceolate to elliptic, pointed at each end. The leaflet midrib, rachis, and petiole are often reddish. Crushed foliage smells like turpentine. Inflorescences are mostly in the leaf axils and contain many small white flowers. Fruits are bright red, fleshy drupes 4-6.5 mm in diameter with an aromatic brown pulp and an elliptic light brown seed (stone).
- Propagation:** Seeds are spread mostly by fruit-eating birds but also by mammals.
- Distribution:** Identified in Hawaii (Hawai'i, Kaua'i, Lana'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu), Guam, American Samoa, Marshall Islands (Ralik Chain)
- Habitat/Ecology:** Low-growing evergreen invades most mesic to wet lowland environments. It is very drought resistant and survives fire well (crown-sprouting); it can also withstand high winds. Aggressive pioneer species that quickly colonizes disturbed areas. It has an intermediate tolerance of shade and can survive and grow slowly under forest canopies until disturbance releases it. Large plants can survive up to 6 months of flooding.
- Environmental impact:** Shades out other plants as well as preventing establishment by the release of allelopathic substances. Forms dense thickets. Invades degraded sites, especially low successional stages of wetland and riparian vegetation.
- Management:** Physical – Seedlings and saplings can be hand-pulled.
Chemical – Sensitive to foliar applications of imazapyr and to foliar and cut surface applications of triclopyr, dicamba, and glyphosate, and to basal bark applications of triclopyr. Sensitive to soil applications of tebuthiuron and hexazinone.
Biological – A seed-feeding wasp (*Megastigmus transvaalensis*) can cause up to 80% mortality to the seeds. Targeted grazing with goats can control infestations. The sawfly (*Heteroperreyia hubrichi*) is a potential bio control agent that requires more testing.

PIER Risk Assessment: High Risk, score: 19



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