

SANTALUM PANICULATUM var. CHARTACEUM Deg. & Deg.

Otto & Isa Degener

Two distantly related groups of Santalum are native but not endemic to the Hawaiian Archipelago. One, called the "freycinetianum group" by *Skottsberg, is more montane, and bears claret colored flowers and a half superior ovary; S. freycinetianum Gaud., and S. haleakalae Hillebr., are beautiful examples. The other, called the "ellipti-



Dorothy Powers photo

Santalum haleakalae Hillebr.

cum group," is mainly coastal, and bears greenish yellow flowers and an inferior ovary. The latter is obviously represented by Santalum ellipticum Gaud., s.l. This inhabits all islands, rather typical plants growing below Diamond Head lighthouse in Honolulu and at Kaena Point, Island of Oahu. On the Island of Hawaii this widespread species is represented by forma annectens Degener and var. luteum (Rock) Degener. The more aberrant of this S. ellipticum group on this island are S. paniculatum Hook. & Arn., and S. pilgeri Rock. The latter is a commercially valuable timber tree of the rainforest once centering about Hualalai, but now on the verge of extinction.

Santalum paniculatum is a spreading, twiggy tree usually two to three meters tall, with yellowish coriaceous leaves. It grows most abundantly near Kilauea Military Camp. As this area is within the confines of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, this interesting species is being spared from annihilation.

While concentrating on the distribution of Wikstroemia taxa, we came across a single, strange sandalwood growing in a scrubby forest punctuated here and there with Metrosideros trees, trees nonspecific with Australian ones. This area is northeast of Glenwood and, as the crow flies, about ten miles distant from the nearest typical S. paniculatum that we know. Though as tall as some trees of S. pilgeri, it is not closely related to this distant species. In spite of being much taller than any S. ellipticum s.l., and S. paniculatum ever observed, we judge it to be a variety of the latter and worth recording as follows:

SANTALUM PANICULATUM var. CHARTACEUM Deg. & Deg., var. nov. Arbor 10 m. alta, foliis chartaceis.

Differing from the species in attaining a height of 10 meters rather than 2-3, and bearing chartaceous rather than coriaceous leaves.

Type Locality: Deg. & Deg. 32,769. Fern Forest Estates, east of Belt Road, Puna, Hawaii. Scrubby *Metrosideros* forest at 2,000 feet. June 5, 1972. Type at N.Y., 12 cotypes elsewhere.

As many owners of this subdivision are having their lots bulldozed clean of the endemic forest to replant them with *Psidium guajava* L., for an anticipated jam, jelly and juice industry, this interesting taxon may not survive many more years. We therefore show a photograph of its habit of growth. It is the largest tree above the front tire of the jeep.





Degener, Otto and Degener, Isa. 1973. "Santalum paniculatum var. chartaceum Deg. & Deg." *Phytologia* 27(3), 145–147.

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