

## `a`e (Zanthoxylum kauaiense, Zanthoxylum hawaiiense)

RUTACEAE, rue or citrus family



Zanthoxylum kauaiense A. Gray

This species is endemic to the main Hawaiian Islands (Wagner et al. 1990).

Zanthoxylum hawaiiense Hillebr.

This species is endemic to Moloka`i, Lāna`i, Maui, and Hawai`i island (Wagner et al. 1990).

Another Hawaiian name for this species is *mānele* (Pukui and Elbert 1986). (Wagner et al. 1990). Hillebrand (1888) stated that the name for all Hawaiian species of Zanthoxylum is "heae" with the notation trisyllabic (not using glottal marks (*okina*) in his spelling of Hawaiian names), hence probably "he`a`e". Pukui and Elbert (1986) stated that the Proto Polynesian root word for this species is *ake*.

Summary statement of uses: The hard and yellowish wood of *a`e* was used for kapa making tools (anvils or *kua kuku*) (Lennox 1967), agricultural tools (digging sticks), and weapons (spears) (Pukui and Elbert 1986)

In Wagner et al. (1990), another species Z. dipetalum is given the Hawaiian name *kawa`u* and cited as the species used in making the *kua kuku*, the anvil used for beating *kapa*, who cites the pleasant, resonant tone given by the anvil when made of *kawa`u* wood and struck with a *kapa* mallet of a harder wood (generally *koai`e* or *kauila*). However, based on the comments of Lennox (1967), we believe that other species besides Z. dipetalum were used in making *kapa* anvils and that the Hawaiian name *kawa`u* is perhaps most appropriately applied to all native Hawaiian species of Zanthoxylum.

Lennox (1967) stated regarding Z. hawaiiense at Auwahi, "Trunk as kapa anvil - resonant."

Status at Auwahi: Both Zanthoxylum species are now very rare at Auwahi and on Haleakal in general restricted to less than ten individuals each.