

alani (Melicope adscendens, Melicope knudsenii, Melicope mucronulata,
Melicope volcanica)

RUTACEAE, rue or citrus family



alani vine- Melicope adscendens



alani tree- Melicope knudsenii

Another Hawaiian name for local species is *alani kuahivi* (Pukui and Elbert 1986).

Melicope adscendens (St. John and E. Hume) T. Hartley and B. Stone

USFWS Endangered species.

This species is endemic to Auwahi, leeward East Maui (Wagner et al. 1990:1183).

Melicope knudsenii (Hillebr.) T. Hartley and B. Stone

This species is endemic to Kaua`i and leeward East Maui (Wagner et al. 1990:1192).

USFWS Endangered species.

Melicope mucronulata (St. John) T. Hartley & B. Stone

This species is endemic to Moloka`i and leeward East Maui (Wagner et al. 1990:1196).

Melicope volcanica (A. Gray) T. Hartley & B. Stone

This species is endemic to Lāna`i, East Maui, and Hawai`i island (Wagner et al. 1990:1205).

Summary statement of uses: The wood of at least one species is used for canoe trim and *kapa* beaters. The fruits and bark are used medicinally; the leaves are used for perfuming *kapa* cloth.

Lennox (1967) wrote of Melicope volcanica, “Tough yellow-white wood for canoe trim, *kapa* beaters.”

Handy and Handy (1972:240) wrote of the genus Melicope in Hawai`i, “The nuts, yielding an oil smelling like orange rind, were chewed for therapeutic purposes, and the bark was also used medicinally”. Handy and Handy (1972:237) wrote that *alani* leaves were used in perfuming *kapa* cloth, to offset the foul smell produced in the retting stages. The bark of Melicope knudsenii at Auwahi, known from two individuals on Maui, has bark that when rubbed emits a strong fragrance very much like that of *mokihana* (Melicope anisata) of Kaua`i.

Status at Auwahi: Melicope adscendens is an Endangered species (USFWS). It is a scrambling vine-like tree restricted to approximately forty individuals between eastern Kanaio and western Auwahi. Melicope knudsenii is another Endangered species known from about a dozen trees in the late 1970s but is now seemingly restricted to a single living individual in upper western Auwahi. Melicope mucronulata is now thought to be extinct on Haleakalā. Melicope volcanica is uncommon and scattered throughout Auwahi as well as rain forests of windward Haleakalā.