

hōlei (*Ochrosia haleakalae*)

APOCYNACEAE, dogbane family



Ochrosia haleakalae St. John

This species is endemic to East Maui and perhaps Hawai'i island (Wagner *et al.* 1990:218). Hillebrand (1888) stated that the Hawaiian name for *Ochrosia* is *hoolei*.

Summary statement of uses: The bark and roots of *hōlei* are used in making a yellow-orange dye and the wood is used in canoe construction (*mo'o*).

The wood of *hōlei* is used to make gunnels (*mo'o*) for canoes (Holmes 1981). The bark and roots of *hōlei* were used for producing a yellow dye for bark cloth, *kapa* (Buck 1957:186-187; Neal 1965:691; Pukui and Elbert 1986:77). Pukui and Elbert (1986) stated that *kapa* dyed with *hōlei* or the act of dyeing *kapa* with it are also known as *hōlei*. Kamakau (1976) notes two types of *kapa* dyed with *hōlei*: 1) a yellow *kapa* named *hōlei* for the tree, "colored by beating in the juice of the bark of the *hōlei*" and 2) a *kapa* named *waili'ili'i* with a pattern of thick yellow stripes dyed with *hōlei*.

Small bark pieces of *hōlei* soaked in just boiled water yielded a bright yellow dye which took well to cotton cloth (Cathy Davenport and ACM unpublished).

Summers (1990:41) wrote that *kauila*, *koai'e*, *kōlea*, *kāwa'u*, *hōlei*, *māmane*, and *nā`ū* were among the woods used in making *lā'au kahi olonā* or *papa olonā*, the long slender thin hardwood boards used for scraping *olon.ā*

Status at Auwahi: Perhaps three hundred individuals of this rare species are known from the Auwahi district; approximately 50 individuals from the Makawao Forest Reserve, and very rare at Nahiku in lower elevation windward wet forest (R. Sylva, pers. comm.).