



N. Tanglain, NTBG    Hawai'i Natural Heritage Ranking – Critically Imperiled (G1)  
Endemism – O'ahu

## Plants

# Ha'iwale

*Cyrtandra sessilis*

### SPECIES STATUS:

Federally Listed as Candidate Species

Genetic Safety Net Species

Endemism – O'ahu

**SPECIES INFORMATION:** *Cyrtandra sessilis*, a member of the African violet family (Gesneriaceae), is a shrub, 0.5-1 m tall, with branched stems. The leaves are arranged in whorls of 3 per node. Cymes axillary, with 3-8 flowers. Corollas white.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Known from only one location, with two populations in Kahana valley, island of O'ahu.

**ABUNDANCE:** There are approximately 50 known individuals.

**LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT:** Found in wet gulch bottoms and slopes of mesic valleys and wet forests on O'ahu.

### THREATS:

- Feral pigs degrade and or destroy the native habitat;
- Competition with alien plant species.

**CONSERVATION ACTIONS:** The goals of conservation actions are not only to protect current populations, but also to establish new populations to reduce the risk of extinction. In addition to common statewide and island conservation actions, specific actions include:

- Survey historic range for surviving populations;
- Establish secure *ex-situ* stocks with complete representation of remaining individuals;
- Augment wild population and establish new populations in safe harbors.

### MONITORING:

- Continue surveys of population and distribution in known and likely habitats;
- Monitor plants for insect damage and plant diseases.

### RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- Develop proper horticultural protocols and pest management;
- Survey *ex-situ* holdings and conduct molecular fingerprinting;
- Conduct pollination biology and seed dispersal studies;
- Map genetic diversity in the surviving populations to guide future re-introduction and augmentation efforts.

**References:**

Hawai'i Natural Heritage Program. 2005. Hawaii Natural Heritage Program Search, <http://www.hinhp.org>.

US Fish and Wildlife Service. 1991. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Review of Native Species That Are Candidates or Proposed for Listing as Endangered or Threatened; Annual Notice of Findings on Resubmitted Petitions; Annual Description of Progress on Listing Actions; Proposed Rule, Vol. 56 No. 183, (20-SEP-91), 70 FR 24869 24934, 66 pp.

Wagner, W. L., D. R. Herbst, and D. H. Lorence. 2005. Flora of the Hawaiian Islands website. <http://ravenel.si.edu/botany/pacificislandbiodiversity/hawaiianflora/index.htm> [August, 2005].

Wagner, W.L., Herbst, D.R., and Sohmer, S.H., 1999. Manual of the flowering plants of Hawai'i-- Revised Edition. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press and Bishop Museum Press. 1853p.