
[Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk \(PIER\)](#)

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Annona cherimola

Mill., Annonaceae



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Present on Pacific Islands? yes

Primarily a threat at high elevations? yes

Risk assessment results: Low risk, score: -4 ([Go to the risk assessment](#))

Other Latin names: *Annona pubescens* Salisb.; *Annona tripetala* Aiton

Common name(s): [\[more details\]](#)

Chinese: mao ye fan li zhi

English: cherimoya, custard-apple

French: chérimolier

Hawaiian: kelemoio, momona

Spanish: chirimoya, chirimoyo

Habit: shrub

Description: "Rounded **shrub** to 5 m tall; young **twigs** persistently ferruginous-tomentose with very fine, short hairs; **petioles** stoutish, 6-10 mm long, densely tomentose; leaf **blades** mostly elliptic but occasionally lanceolate or broadly elliptic, cuneate to rounded at base, obtuse or acute at apex, 5-15 cm long, 3-10 cm wide, finely and softly velutinous-pubescent with tangled, subappressed, simple hairs, these ferruginous on very young growth and along veins on undersurface, soon glabrate above, the blades much paler beneath than above; **flowers** opposite leaves, solitary or in pairs, the petioles ferruginous-tomentose, 8-12 mm long; buds 15-18 mm long, 5-8 mm broad at base, lanceolate-oblong, tomentose outside; sepals triangular, 2-4 mm long, tomentose; petals linear, 1.5-2.5 cm long at anthesis, ferruginous-tomentose on outer surface, greenish within; stamens many; **fruit** ovoid to globose, 5-10 cm in diameter, greenish to greenish-purple or nearly black, the surface with rounded protuberances and with U-shaped areoles, or sometimes nearly smooth; fleshy arils white, slightly acid, edible; **seeds** oblong, 10-12 mm long, about half as wide, smooth, black" (Wiggins & Porter, 1971; pp. 521-522).

Habitat/ecology: Cultivated and escapes. "It requires cooler temperatures to prosper" (Staples & Herbst, 2005; p. 109), so probably not a threat on most Pacific islands.

Propagation: Seed

Native range: "Probably native to the Andes of Peru and Ecuador, where it thrives at elevations of 4,500-6,500 feet" (Staples & Herbst, 2005; p. 109).

Presence:

| Pacific | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Country/Terr./St. & Island group | Location | Cited status & Cited as invasive & Cited as cultivated & Cited as aboriginal introduction? | Reference & Comments |
| Chile (offshore islands) Rapa Nui (Easter) Island | Rapa Nui (Easter) Island (Isla de Pasqua) | introduced invasive cultivated | Meyer, Jean-Yves (2008) (p. 45) |
| Chile (offshore islands) Juan Fernández Islands | Isla Más a Tierra (Robinson Crusoe Island) | introduced cultivated | Atkinson, Rachel/Sawyer, John (2011) |
| Chile (offshore islands) Juan Fernández Islands | Isla Más a Tierra (Robinson Crusoe Island) | introduced cultivated | Danton, Philippe/Perrier, Christophe/Martinez Reyes, Guido (2006) (pp. 473-474, 520, 551) |
| Cook Islands Southern Cook Islands | Mangaia Island | introduced cultivated | McCormack, Gerald (2013) |
| Ecuador (Galápagos Islands) Floreana Group | Floreana Island | introduced invasive cultivated | Charles Darwin Foundation (2008) |
| Ecuador (Galápagos Islands) Isabela Group | Isabela Island | introduced invasive cultivated | Charles Darwin Foundation (2008) |
| Ecuador (Galápagos Islands) Isabela Group | Volcán Sierra Negra, Isabela Island | introduced invasive cultivated | Charles Darwin Foundation (2008) |
| Ecuador (Galápagos Islands) San Cristóbal Group | San Cristóbal Island | introduced invasive cultivated | Charles Darwin Foundation (2008) |
| Ecuador (Galápagos Islands) Santa Cruz Group | Santa Cruz Island | introduced invasive cultivated | Charles Darwin Foundation (2008) |
| Federated States of Micronesia Pohnpei Islands | Pohnpei Island | introduced cultivated | Herrera, Katherine/Lorence, David H./Flynn, Timothy/Balick, Michael J. (2010) (p. 68) |
| French Polynesia Marquesas Islands | Ua Huka (Huahuna, Uahuka) Island | introduced cultivated | Lorence, David H./Wagner, Warren L. (2013) |
| French Polynesia | Ua Huka | | National Tropical Botanical Garden (U.S.A.) |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Marquesas Islands | (Huahuna, Uahuka) Island | | Hawaii. Kalaheo.) (2003) (voucher ID: PTBG 40850) Taxon name on voucher: Annona cherimola |
| French Polynesia Society Islands | Tahiti Island | introduced cultivated | Florence, J. (2004) (p. 78) |
| French Polynesia Society Islands | Tahiti Island | introduced cultivated | Florence, J./Chevillotte, H./Ollier, C./Meyer, J.-Y. (2013) Cultivée |
| State of Hawaii Hawaiian Islands | Hawai'i (Big) Island | introduced invasive | Staples, George W./Imada, Clyde T./Herbst, Derral R. (2002) (p. 4) Vouchers cited: O. Degener 7276 (BISH), J.F. Rock 12961 (BISH), A.S. Hitchcock 14507 (BISH), W. Takeuchi 5777 (BISH) |
| New Caledonia New Caledonia Archipelago | Île Grande Terre | introduced cultivated | MacKee, H. S. (1994) (p. 15) Voucher cited: MacKee 23423 |
| New Zealand (offshore islands) Kermadec Islands | Raoul Island | introduced invasive | Sykes, W. R. (1977) (pp. 75-76) |
| New Zealand (offshore islands) Kermadec Islands | Raoul Island | introduced invasive | Webb, C. J./Sykes, W. R./Garnock-Jones, P. J. (1988) (p. 111) "Forming large thickets from original planted stock in old orchards". |
| Palau Palau (Belau) (main island group) | Palau Islands (main island group) | introduced | Fosberg, F. R./Sachet, Marie-Hélène/Oliver, Royce (1979) |
| Philippines Philippine Islands | Philippine Islands | introduced cultivated | U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Res. Serv. (2013) |

Pacific Rim

| Country/Terr./St. & Island group | Location | Cited status & Cited as invasive & Cited as cultivated & Cited as aboriginal introduction? | Reference & Comments |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Australia Australia (continental) | Australia (continental) | introduced cultivated | U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Res. Serv. (2013) |
| China China | China (People's Republic of) | introduced cultivated | Zhengyi, Wu/Raven, Peter H./Deyuan, Hong (2013) Widely cultivated; 100-300 m. |
| Ecuador (Mainland) Ecuador | Ecuador (Republic of) (continental) | native | U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Res. Serv. (2013) Loja [Andes] |
| Mexico Mexico | Mexico (United Mexican) | introduced cultivated | U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Res. Serv. (2013) |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | States) | | |
| New Zealand New Zealand | New Zealand (country) | introduced cultivated | U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Res. Serv. (2013) |
| Perú Perú | Perú (Republic of) | native | U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Res. Serv. (2013) [Andes] |
| Singapore Singapore | Singapore (Republic of) | introduced cultivated | Chong, Kwek Yan/Tan, Hugh T. W./Corlett, Richard T. (2009) (p. 13) Cultivated only |
| Taiwan Taiwan Island | Taiwan Island | introduced cultivated | Zhengyi, Wu/Raven, Peter H./Deyuan, Hong (2013) Widely cultivated; 100-300 m. |
| United States (west coast) United States (west coast states) | USA (California) | introduced cultivated | U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Res. Serv. (2013) |

Also reported from

| Country/Terr./St. & Island group | Location | Cited status & Cited as invasive & Cited as cultivated & Cited as aboriginal introduction? | Reference & Comments |
|---|-----------------|---|---|
| United States (continental except west coast) United States (other states) | USA (Florida) | introduced cultivated | U.S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Res. Serv. (2013) |

Additional information:

[Information](#) from the World Agroforestry Centre's [AgroForestryTree Database](#).

Additional online information about [Annona cherimola](#) is available from the [Hawaiian Ecosystems at Risk project \(HEAR\)](#).

[Information about Annona cherimola as a weed \(worldwide references\)](#) may be available from the [Global Compendium of Weeds \(GCW\)](#).

[Taxonomic information about Annona cherimola](#) may be available from the [Germplasm Resources Information Network \(GRIN\)](#).

References:

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