

Pomace Fly

Endemic

(Drosophilidae)

As many as 800 species of these flies evolved from only one or two colonizing ancestors! Males stake out territories and “dance” to attract mates. Individual species feed on different food sources including plant sap, fungi and rotting plants.

description: 6 mm (0.25 in.) long; bodies and wings have variety of patterns, sometimes referred to as “picture wings.”

habitat: from sea level to subalpine zone.

Lava cricket

Endemic

(*Caconemobius fori*)

Lava crickets start colonizing smooth *pāhoehoe* lava flows within a month after an eruption! They spend their days in the cracks of rocks and come out at night to feed on wind-blown insects.

description: 13 mm (0.5 in.); black with a few white markings.

habitat: new *pāhoehoe* lava flows.

Happy-face spider

Endemic

(*Theridion grallator*)

The “happy face” pattern on this tiny spider is actually camouflage on the back of its abdomen. When sunlight shines through a leaf, the spider’s markings help to hide it from predators, such as birds. Happy-face spiders catch small insects that land on their leaf “roofs.”

description: body and legs are each 13 mm (0.5 in.) long; transparent green/yellow with various red and black patterns.

habitat: undersides of large leaves in native rainforests.

‘O‘opu nākea goby

Endemic

(*Awaous stamineus*)

This native freshwater goby is considered a delicacy, but overfishing and human disturbances to streams have caused its population to decline. *Nākea* feeds on green algae and occasionally on shrimp.

description: up to 46 cm (18 in.) long; nākea is the largest native ‘o‘opu; its brown color matches the streambed.

habitat: lives primarily in lower reaches of streams.

Carnivorous caterpillar

Endemic

(*Eupithecia* spp.)

The only caterpillars known to catch active prey are the larvae of geometrid moths. These caterpillars changed their diet from flowers to hunting insects here in Hawai‘i.

description: 2.5 cm (1 in.) long; green or brown color matches area where caterpillar waits for prey. Caterpillars have excellent camouflage and may look like twigs, clumps of moss, a piece of leaf litter, or a leaf edge!

habitat: medium wet forests and shrublands.

Damselfly

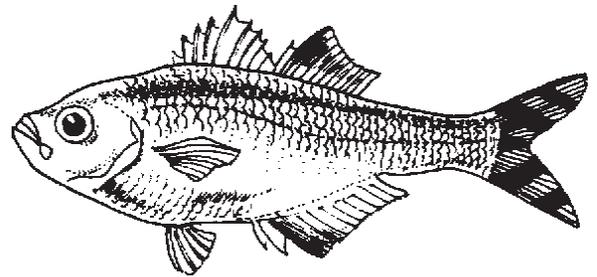
Endemic

(*Megalagrion* spp.)

Most young damselflies live and grow in streams and ponds. In Hawai‘i some young damselflies (nymphs) live in water that collects between leaves and stems of native plants!

description: among the largest damselflies in the world; 4–5 cm (1.5–2.5 in.) long, with narrow 7–13 cm (3–5 in.) wings; red, blue, green, or silver.

habitat: rainforests, particularly near streams.



Koa Endemic
(*Acacia koa*)

Koa is the Hawaiian word for warrior. Hawaiians carved the straight trunks of this giant tree into sturdy outrigger canoes.

description: 15–40 m (50–140 ft) tall, and up to 4 m (12 ft) in diameter; “leaves” on mature trees are crescent-shaped, flattened leaf stems; true leaves are finely divided.

habitat: dry and medium wet forests from sea level–1,800 m (6,000 ft) elevation. *Koa* are found on all the main Hawaiian Islands.

Āholehole Endemic
(*Kuhlia sandvicensis*)

Āholehole is the young stage of the *āhole* fish. *Hole* is a Hawaiian word that means to strip away. Hawaiians believed the fish could chase away evil spirits.

description: a silver fish; 15–25 cm (6–10 in.) long.

habitat: young fish are common in streams; adults are found in brackish water and in fairly deep tidal pools.

Naio Indigenous
false sandalwood
(*Myoporum sandwicense*)

The hardwood of this native tree has a scent like sandalwood. Hawaiians sometimes used it for house posts, torches, and fishnet gauges.

description: shrub or tree with narrow leaves 6–15 cm (2–6 in.) long; small pink or white flower, white fruit with very hard seeds.

habitat: dry coastal areas to subalpine shrublands.

‘Ōhi‘a lehua Endemic
(*Metrosideros polymorpha*)

The first tree to grow on new lava flows, ‘*ōhi‘a lehua* is the most common native tree in the islands. Its blossoms are said to be sacred to the volcano goddess, Pele.

description: dark green leaves vary from round to narrow and smooth to hairy; flowers are pink, yellow, white, peach and most commonly, red; ranges in size from a small 30-cm (1-ft) shrub to a 30-m (100-ft) tree.

habitat: occurs from sea level to 2,700 m (9,000 ft); the largest trees are in areas of high rainfall.

‘Āe‘ā Endemic
climbing pandanus
(*Freycinetia arborea*)

Hawaiians used the strong, aerial roots for fish traps, baskets, and helmets. The moist areas between the leaves and stems are home to an amazing community of animals, including herbivores, carnivores and scavengers.

description: a tree-climbing plant with long leaves and an orange-gold flowering spike.

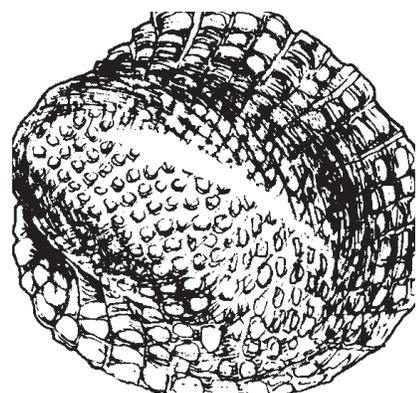
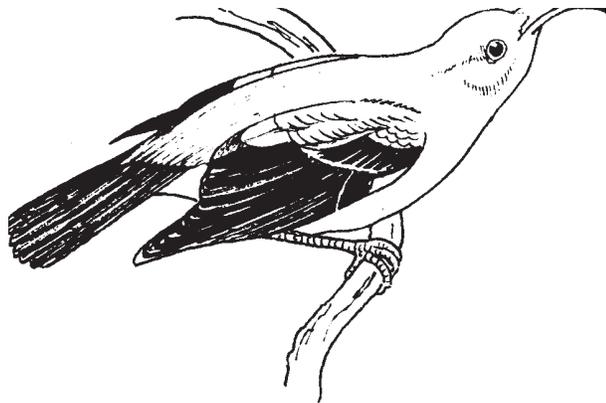
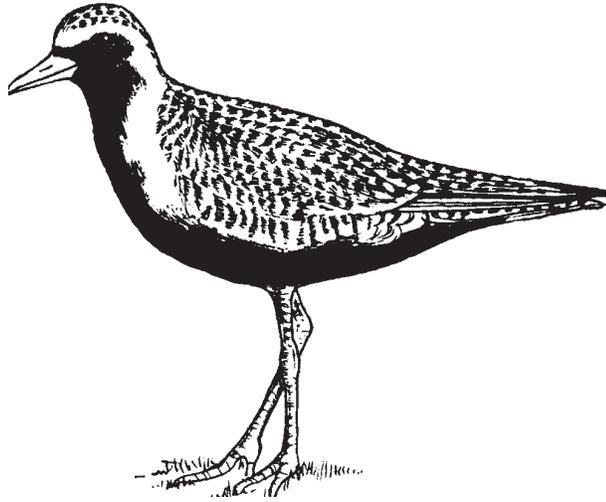
habitat: from 300–1,200 m (1,000–4,000 ft) elevation in wet forests.

Hāpu‘u Endemic
Hawaiian tree fern
(*Cibotium splendens*)

The downy covering of the new fronds (*pulu*) was used as a wound dressing and was once collected and exported for pillow stuffing.

description: up to 5 m (16 ft) tall, bright green fronds are 1–3 m (3–9 ft) long; *pulu* is golden.

habitat: understory of rainforests.



Wrinkled frog Introduced
(*Rana rugosa*)

Wrinkled frogs can be found basking on rocks or diving in shallow pools. They get their name from the narrow ridges on their backs which give them a wrinkled appearance.

description: less than 5 cm (2 in.); charcoal or brownish-gray body.

habitat: rocks along stream banks and shallow pools.

Kāhuli Endemic
O‘ahu tree snail
(*Achatinella* spp.)

Once referred to as the jewels of the Hawaiian forest, O‘ahu tree snails are now rare. Of the 40 or more species, over half are extinct and the remainder are endangered.

description: 2 cm (0.75 in.); variety of shell patterns and colors, including orange, red, yellow, green, brown, black and white.

habitat: native forests on O‘ahu; snail may spend its entire life on one tree! Closely related snails live or once lived on all main islands.

Hihīwai Endemic
snail
(*Neritina granosa*)

Like other native streamlife, the larvae of these snails are washed into the sea where they slowly develop. As tiny snails, they return to a stream and the cycle begins again.

description: up to 5 cm (2 in.); black shell.

habitat: found up to 370 m (1,200 ft) elevation in streams that flow freely to the sea.

Kōlea Indigenous
Pacific golden plover
(*Pluvialis dominica*)

Each April, the *kōlea* molts into dark breeding plumage in preparation for its 4,800 km (3,000 mi) non-stop journey to Siberia or Alaska.

description: 28 cm (11 in.) long, brown with gold and white flecks; breeding plumage—black body, white stripe around eye and down neck and side.

habitat: winters in Hawai‘i and other Pacific islands from sea level to alpine shrubland in open grassy areas.

‘I‘iwi Endemic
(*Vestiaria coccinea*)

The brilliant red feathers of the ‘*i‘iwi* match the red ‘*ōhi‘a* blossom on which it feeds. In addition to sipping nectar, ‘*i‘iwi* also hunts for insects. Its Hawaiian name sounds like its loud, squeaky call.

description: 14 cm (5.5 in.); red with black wings; long, curved salmon-colored bill and orange legs.

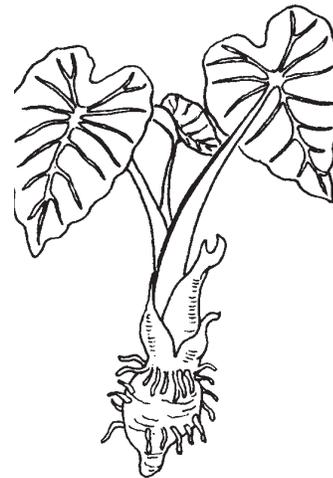
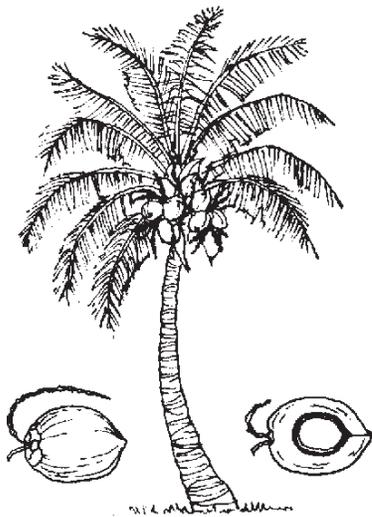
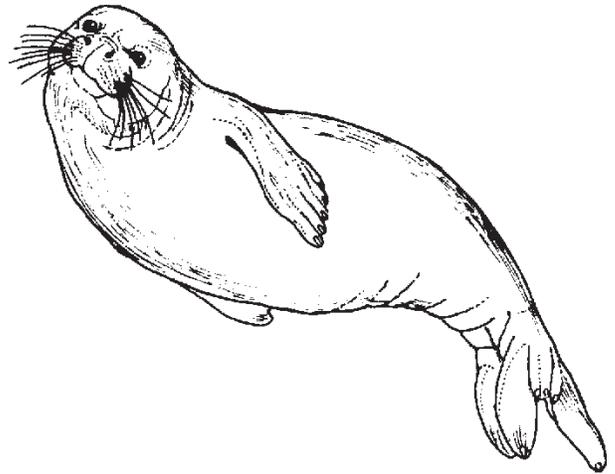
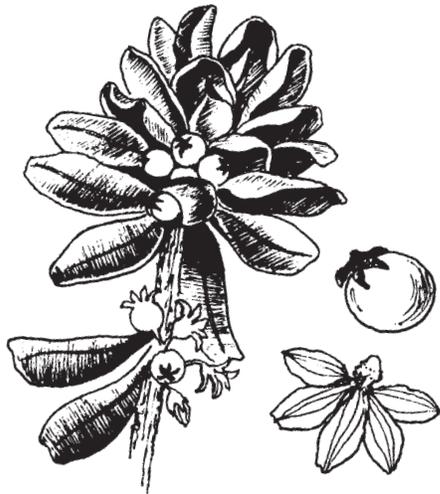
habitat: lives in rainforests on all main islands, except Lāna‘i; it is listed by the state as endangered on O‘ahu and Moloka‘i.

‘Ōpe‘ape‘a Endemic
Hawaiian hoary bat
(*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*)

The only surviving native land mammal of Hawai‘i, the hoary bat, or ‘*ōpe‘ape‘a*, sleeps during the day and comes out at night to feed on insects.

description: 25–33 cm (10–13 in.) wing span: 7.5 cm (3–4 in.) long; gray and reddish body.

habitat: believed to occur on all main islands, but most commonly seen on Kaua‘i and Hawai‘i from sea level to 1,200 m (4,000 ft); roosts in native and introduced trees as well as on buildings.



Hawaiian monk seal Endemic

(*Monachus schauinsland*)

Monk seals are the only endemic mammals besides Hawaiian bats. They were once common throughout the Hawaiian Islands; today they are endangered.

description: 180–270 kg (400–600 lb) adults; 14 kg (30 lb) at birth; adults have dark gray backs, light-colored abdomens; pups are black.

habitat: sandy beaches with shallow protected reefs; found mainly on northwest Hawaiian Islands, infrequently on Kaua‘i or O‘ahu.

Naupaka kahakai Indigenous

beach *naupaka*

(*Scaevola taccada*)

The waxy berries of beach *naupaka* floated throughout the Pacific, spreading this hardy plant to many tropical areas. The seed capsule is covered by a hard cork layer allowing flotation for a year or more. Hawaiian legend says that mountain and beach *naupaka* are separate sweethearts.

description: 1–3 m (3–10 ft) shrub; bright green leaves; white berries, white, purple-streaked flower appears to be cut in half.

habitat: coastal strand

Kalo Introduced
taro

(*Colocasia esculenta*)

Hawaiians grew *kalo* as their principal food crop. The underground root-like stems (corms) were pounded into *poi* and leaves were cooked as *lū‘au*.

description: long-stemmed, heart-shaped green or red leaves, nearly 300 Hawaiian forms.

habitat: cultivated in both wet and dry lowland areas.

Niu Introduced
coconut palm

(*Cocos nucifera*)

Hawaiians planted the coconut with an octopus (*he‘e*) so that the roots would grip the ground like an octopus’ arms, and the nuts would be as round as an octopus’ body.

description: up to 30 m (100 ft) tall; may bear up to 50 coconuts per year.

habitat: coastal strand.

‘Uala Introduced
sweet potato

(*Ipomoea batatas*)

The sweet potato was introduced by the Polynesians. Its root is a valuable source of food in many Pacific islands and other regions. It comes from South America.

description: vine grows close to the ground; dark green leaves, purple stems, and large tuberous white, orange or purple roots.

habitat: cultivated mainly in dry or semi-dry areas.

Koa haole Introduced

(*Leucaena leucocephala*)

This fast-growing tree was originally introduced to Hawai‘i for cattle food. Horses that eat the plant often lose the hair on their tails and manes.

description: small tree; leaves resemble true leaves of *koa*, hence its name, “foreign *koa*”; pale yellow flower, thin brown pods.

habitat: common in lowland areas.