

***Koa* (*Acacia koa*)** Endemic

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 460–1,800 m (1,500–6,000 ft) elevation. *Koa* are found on all the main Hawaiian Islands.

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

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

‘*Āholehole* (*Kuhlia sandvicensis*) Endemic

‘*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.

‘*Ie‘ie*, climbing pandanus Endemic
(*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.

***Naiio*, false sandalwood** Endemic
(*Myoporum sandwicense*)

The hardwood of this native tree has a scent like sandalwood.

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.

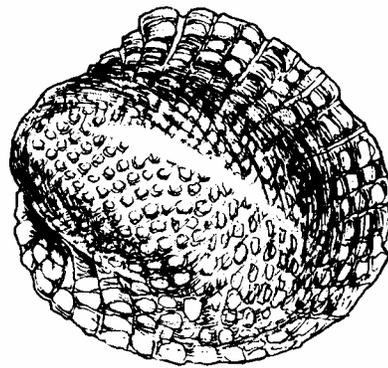
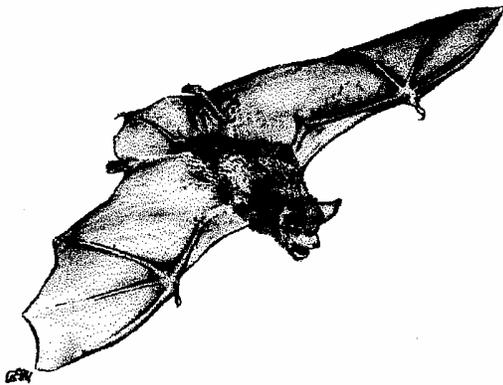
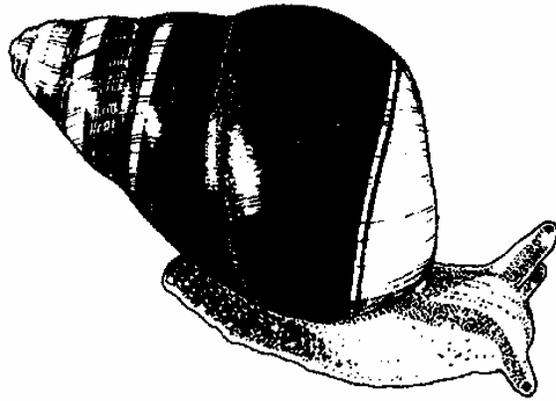
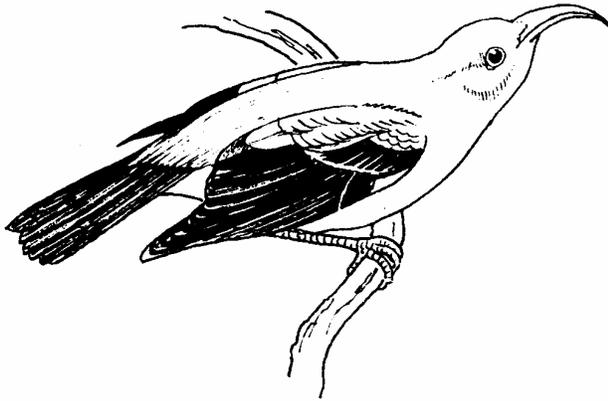
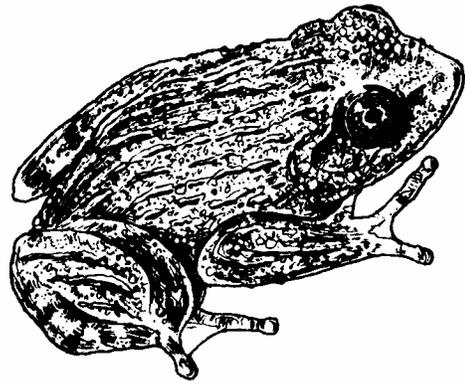
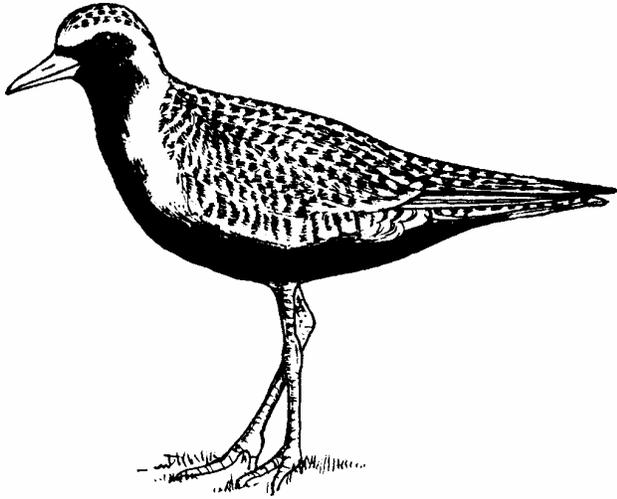
habitat: dry coastal areas to alpine shrublands.

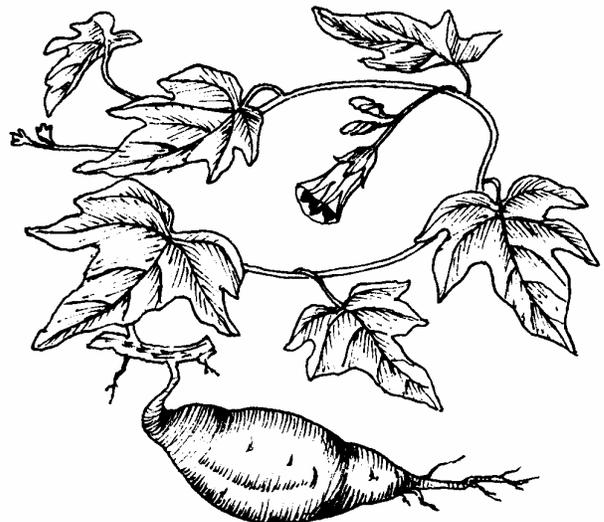
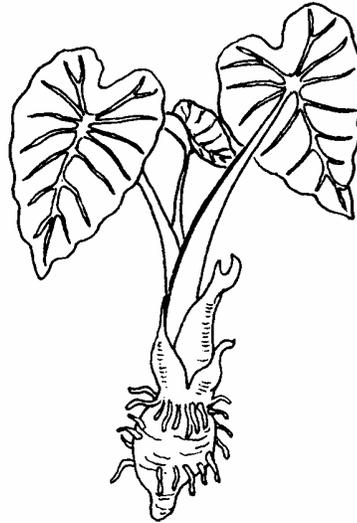
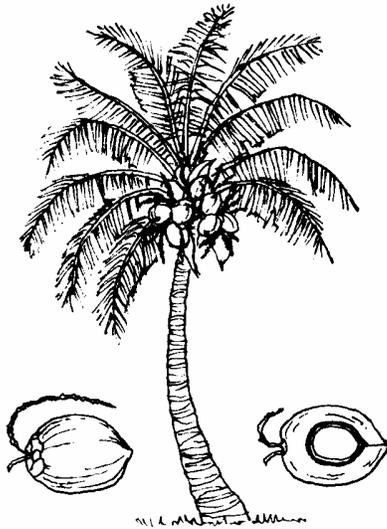
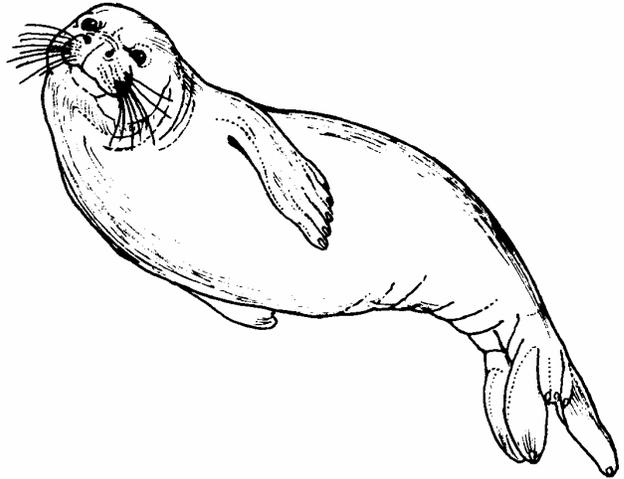
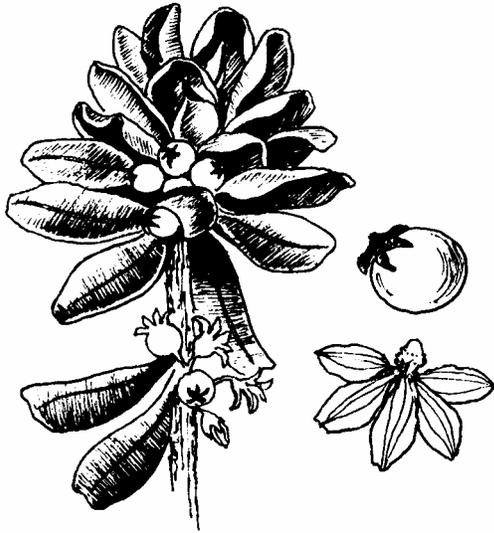
***Hāpu‘u*, Hawaiian tree fern** Endemic
(*Cibotium splendens*)

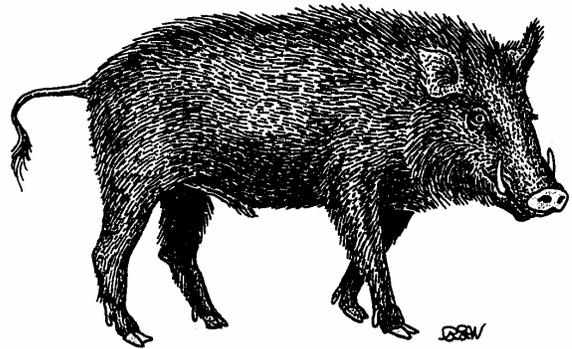
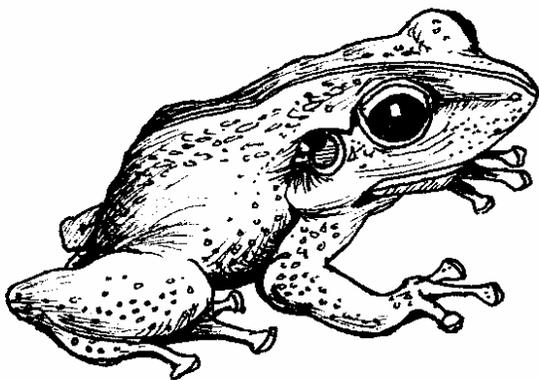
The downy covering of the new fronds (*pulu*) was used as a wound dressing and was once collected and exported for pillow stuffing.

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.







Miconia (*Miconia calvescens*) Introduced

This tree is from Central and South America. It was brought to Hawai‘i as a garden plant. Miconia shades out and kills plants in native forests. It has already destroyed 70 percent of Tahiti’s native forest. It increases erosion by killing groundcover plants. It produces millions of tiny seeds, which are spread by birds.

description: can grow up to 50 ft (15 m) tall; their oval-shaped leaves are purple underneath and can grow up to 3 ft (1 m long).

habitat: forests

Goat (*Capra hircus*) Introduced

Captain Cook brought the first goats to Hawai‘i, Sailors introduced them to nearly all the islands as a food source. Goats will eat anything. Waimea Canyon and the Nā Pali coast on Kaua‘i are highly eroded and have much alien vegetation because of goats.

description: combinations of black, brown, white; short hair; curved horns; males 80–120 lbs (33–50 kg), females 50–90 lbs (23–41 kg); males are bearded.

habitat: all major islands except Ni‘ihau and Lāna‘i; low to high altitudes, wet or dry zones

Feral pig (*Sus scrofa*) Introduced

Feral pigs destroy native rainforests by eating its way through them. This single impact causes soil erosion, loss of watersheds, an increase of alien vegetation (such as clidemia), and many mosquitoes in muddy ponds. Mosquitoes carry the avian malaria disease, which kills native birds. Control is by hunting and fencing.

description: coarse hair (usually black), thick necks, long snout, straight tail, up to 70 kg (150 lbs)

habitat: all types of forests

Clidemia (*Clidemia hirta*) Introduced

Koster’s curse

This aggressive weedy shrub shades out all vegetation below it. It produces a lot of seeds and grows easily. It is spread mainly by man but also by birds and feral pigs.

description: can grow up to 5 m tall

habitat: prolific on O‘ahu but can also be found on most other major islands in mesic to very wet areas

Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) Introduced

It’s an aquatic fern that floats on water. It can double its size in a few days, forming a thick cover on the surface of water that prevents light and oxygen from entering the water thereby killing fish and other aquatic life. In 2000, it covered 90% of Lake Wilson on O‘ahu. The restoration of the lake took many months of cleanup.

description: green leaves float on the surface, horizontal stems below the water surface; tiny stalks of white hairs form “mini eggbeaters.”

habitat: freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers, aquariums

Coqui (*Eleutherodactylus coqui*) Introduced

A little nocturnal frog from Puerto Rico that came to Hawai‘i with plants for nurseries. With no predators, the coqui population exploded and now keeps many people up at night with its mating call—“ko-kee.” The coqui competes with native birds for insects and spiders.

description: up to 52 mm (2 in) long; brown or gray-brown

habitat: backyards, nurseries, and rainforest, 0–1,000 m (3,900 ft) elevation; found on Maui, Hawai‘i Island, and O‘ahu.