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VASCULAR PLANTS OF MAKALUVA REEF
ISLET, REWA PROVINCE, VITILEVU, FIJI
(A Preliminary Listing)

by
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This preliminary listing of the flora of Makaluva Island, a small reef islet, with a total land area of about 3 hectares, off the southeast coast of Viti Levu, the main island of the Fiji Islands, is based on a two-day survey conducted on 14 and 15 December 1994 by R. R. Thaman, Professor of Pacific Islands Biogeography of The University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.

Preliminary analysis indicates that there were about 59 species of vascular plants present on Makaluva at the time of the survey in December 1994. Of these 59 species 43 (73%) are presumably indigenous to Fiji, although some may have been brought to the island from the main island of Viti Levu by humans. Some species were found as only single individuals or as immature seedlings on the beach margins, and, thus might be ephemerals and not able to successfully establish themselves on the island in the long term. Of the indigenous species, all are widespread Indo-Pacific or pantropical strand or mangrove species, except for the presumably indigenous grass, *Centosteca lappacea*, and the coastal and inland tree species, *Dysoxylum richii*, which was probably brought to the island from mainland Viti Levu by birds or fruit bats. Some of the non-indigenous plants were probably either carried from the mainland by birds, bats or by ocean currents (e.g., the crinum lily, *Crinum asiaticum* which is dispersed by ocean currents in the Indian Ocean), or by humans during picnics or fishing trips, or possibly during the use of the island as a quarantine station early this century.

Of the 59 species, one is a fern, 13 are monocotyledons from 7 different families, and 45 are dicotyledons from 23 different families. The species are listed with the Pteridophytes (ferns) first, followed by the monocotyledons and then the dicotyledons. Within each of these categories, families are then listed in alphabetical order, with the genera and species again listed in alphabetical order within families. The * indicates that a given species is probably introduced or exotic; the ? indicates that species presence or identification unsure, or that the Fijian name is unconfirmed. An abbreviated "checklist" has been provided in the Appendix for use by students or others wishing to conduct studies of the flora and vegetation of Makaluva.

PTERIDOPHYTA

POLYPODIACEAE (Common Fern Family)

Phymatosorus scolopendria (Burm. f.) Pichi-Serm. "scented fern"
 syns. *Potypochum scolopendria* Burmf. *Phymatodes scolopendria* (Burm.) Ching;
Microsorium scolopendria (Burm.) Copel.

Fijian Name: vativati

Indigenous. Paleotropical. Rare. One localised population near the west side of the island.

ANGIOSPERMAE

MONOCOTYLEDONAE

ARACEAE (Arum Family)

- **Alocasia macrorrhiza* (L.) Schott "giant taro", "elephant ears"
 syn. *A. indica* (Roxb.) Schott
 Fijian name: via mila, via dalo

Aboriginal introduction. Trop. Asia. Rare. One single plant found, apparently planted just inland from the beach on the southeast side of the island.

ARECACEAE (PALMAE) (Palm Family)

- Cocos nucifera* L. "coconut palm"
 Fijian name: niu

Aboriginal introduction. S. Asia and Indian Ocean Islands. Occasional, with a few tall mature, bearing palms and scattered immature palms and self-sown seedling. The "tree of life" which is a major staple and livestock feed, a source of drinking nuts and toddy, fiber for thatching and plaited ware, and has countless other uses.

CYPERACEAE (Sedge Family)

- Cyperus stoloniferus* Retz. "beach sedge"
 Fijian name: malaga?

Indigenous. Locally common in sand along inner edge of beaches on the south and south east sides of the island.

LILIAEAE (Including Agavaceae and Amaryllidaceae) (Lily Family)

- **Crinum asiaticum* L. "spider lily", "crinum lily", "grand crinum"
 Fijian name: viavia

Recent introduction. Trop. Asia. A few individuals found in different locations on the north and west sides of the island along the inner margins of the beach. Common planted ornamental, often along borders in gardens throughout Fiji, but probably naturally dispersed to the islands as it is a common strand plant in the Indian Ocean.

***Hymenocallis littoralis** (Jacq.) Salisb. "spider lily"

syn. *Pancreatium littorale* Jacq.

Recent introduction. Trop. America. Rare. A few isolated individuals found in the centre of the island; probably remnants of cultivation.

PANDANACEAE (Pandanus Family)

Pandanus tectorius Warb. "pandanus", "screw pine"

syn: *P. pyriformis* Gaud.

Fijian name: vadra, balawa

Indigenous. Occasional small tree or shrub in coastal strand forest and inland.

POACEAE OR GRAMINAE (Grass Family)

* **Brachiaria mutica** (Forsk.) Stapf "Para grass", "Mauritius grass"

syn. *Panicum muticum* Forsk.

Locally common grass in inland damp areas, often coming onto the beach margins.

Introduced into Fiji in 1877 as a pasture grass.

Centotheca lappacea (L.) Desv.

Fijian name: luna

Probably an aboriginal introduction. Locally common in shady areas along paths and among *Leucaeea leucocephala* thickets.

Leprurus repens (G. Forst.) R. Brown "bunch grass", "beach bunch grass"

Indigenous. Pacific Is. Locally abundant. Occurring in clusters among strand vegetation.

?**Paspalum distichum** L. "knottgrass", "saltgrass", "knottweed"

syns. *P. vaginatum* Sw.; *P. littorale* R Br.

Indigenous. Trop. America, but now pantropical. Locally abundant. Weedy plants forming dense patches near beaches and brackish marshy areas.

Stenotaphrum micranthrum (Desv.) Hubb.

Indigenous. Locally common inland

Thuarea involuta (Forst. f.) R. Br ex R & S

syn. *T. sanmentosa* Pers.

Indigenous. Madagascar to E. Polynesia and Micronesia. Locally abundant. Found in strand vegetation and in sandy areas slightly inland from the coast.

TACCACEAE (Polynesian Arrowroot Family)

***Tacca leontopetaloides** (L.) O. Kuntze

syn. *T. pinnatifida* J.R & G. Forst..

"Polynesian arrowroot"

Fijian name: yabia

Probably an aboriginal introduction. Malay archipelago. Occasional as an understory species just inland from the littoral forest, an in thickets.

DICOTYLEDONAE

ASTERACEAE OR COMPOSITAE (Aster, Sunflower or Composite Family)

***Mikania micranthra** H B & K "mile-a-minute"

Fijian name: wa bosucu, ovaova

Recent introduction. Rare. One specimen found growing along a trail near the centre of the island.

***Wedelia trilobata** (L.) Hitchc. "wedelia"

Recent introduction. Trop. America. Naturalised in a few beach sites. Common.

Wollastonia biflora (L) DC. var. **biflora** "beach sunflower"
syn. *Wedelia biflora* (L.) DC.

Fijian name: kovekove

Indigenous. Trop. Asia to Polynesia and Micronesia. Locally common in vegetation inland from littoral vegetation on the west side of the island.

BORAGINACEAE (Heliotrope Family)

Cordia subcordata Lam. "sea trumpet", "kou" (Hawai'i)

Fijian name: nawanawa

Indigenous. Indian Ocean to Hawaii. Rare. Two or three small trees or seedlings found along the inland border of the beach on the west northwest end of the island.

Tournefortia argentea L. f beach heliotrope"
syn. *Messerschmidia argentea* (L.f.) M. Johnst.

Fijian name: kauniyalewa, roronibebe

Indigenous. Indian Ocean to S.E. Polynesia. Occasional in strand forest and in inland areas. One of the largest trees on the island.

CARICACEAE (Papaya Family)

***Carrica** **papaya** L. "papaya", "pawpaw"

Fijian name: weleti, maoli, uto

Recent introduction. Trop. America. Common. Numerous human or bird dispersed mature and immature trees found in disturbed sites on the island.

CLUSIACEAE OR GUTTIFERAE (Mangosteen Family)

Calophyllum inophyllum L. "Portia tree", "Alexandrian laurel", "tomano"

Fijian name: dilo

Indigenous. Trop. Africa to E. Polynesia and Micronesia. Occasional. A few large trees and a number of seedling scattered around the island.

COMBRETACEAE (Terminalia Family)

Terminalia catappa L. "tropical almond", "beach almond"

Fijian name, tavola, tivi

Indigenous. Trop. Asia and Australia to W. Polynesia and Micronesia. Common tree in coastal forest and inland.

CONVOLVULACEAE (Morning-Glory Family)

Ipomoea littoralis R Br. "littoral morning-glory"

Fijian name: wa sovivi sovivi

Indigenous. Herbaceous creeping, or climbing vine. Occasional on backs of beaches and sometimes inland.

Ipomoea macrantha R & S. "wild moon flower"
syn. *I. tuba* (Schlecht.) G. Don

Fijian name: wa ika, tobici

Indigenous. Pantropical. Locally common somewhat woody creeping or climbing vine in coastal strand forest.

***Ipomoea pes-caprae* (L.) Sweet ssp. *brasiliense* (L.) v. Ooststr.**

"beach morning-glory"
syn. *I brasiliense* (L.) Sweet

Fijian name: lawere, lauwere, wa vulavula, yale, yaleyale

Indigenous. Pantropical. Common. Vigorous creeping vine in coastal vegetation on beaches and in some inland locations.

EUPHORBIACEAE (Spurge Family)

***Chamaesyce atoto* (Forst. f.) Croizat "beach spurge"**

syns. *Euphorbia atoto* Forst. f.; *E. chamissonis* (Kl. and Gke.) Boiss.

Fijian name: selelekaleka, totolu, totoyava?

Indigenous. Trop. Pacific. Occasional, one population of about 9 individuals plants on landward side of beach about 100 to the north of the campsite.

***Excoecaria agalloch* L. "blinding tree"**

Fijian name: sinu gaga

Indigenous from the Indian Ocean to the Caroline and Marianas Islands in Micronesia and to Fiji, Rotuma, Tonga and Niue. Rare. Two or three trees near the north end of island on coastal sand and just inland.

FABACEAE OR LEGUMINOSAE (Bean, Pea or Legume Family)

***Acacia simplex* (Sparrman) Pedley "beach acacia"**
syns: *Acacia simplicifolia* (L. f.) Druce

Fijian name: tatagia

Indigenous from New Caledonia and Vanuatu eastward to Tonga and Samoa. Occasional small to medium-sized hardwood tree in inland forest and just inland from the littoral forest.

Caesalpinia bonduc Roxb. "beach nicker", "gray nicker", "nicker bean"

Fijian name: soni

Indigenous. Panropical. Scrambling to climbing shrub with long branches with sharp, recurved, hooked spines. Occasional in coastal areas and climbing in trees.

Canavalia rosea (Sw.) DC.

Fijian name: drautolu, dralawa

Indigenous, pantropical in distribution. Locally common on beaches and climbing in seaside thickets and inland.

?**Canavalia cathartica** Thou. "Mauna Loa bean" (Hawaii)

syns. *C. microcarpa* (DC.) Piper

Indigenous. Pantropical. Uncommon. Possibly present, but not collected. Probably only *C. rosea* growing inland.

***Crotalaria pallida** Ait. "rattlepod"

syn. *C. mucronata* Desv.

Fijian name: qiriqiri

Introduced. Indigenous to the Old World Tropics. Uncommon. One localised concentration on the inner edges of beach bordering a thicket, about 100 m to the north of the campsite.

Denis trifoliata Lour. "beach derris root", "beach poison vine"

syns. *Derris uliginosa* Benth.; *Robinia uliginosa* Willd.

Fijian name, duva, tuva

Indigenous. Trop. Africa to Polynesia. Occasional. Glabrous creeping and climbing shrub with prostrate rooting stems and 3- to 5-foliolate leaves. The roots, which contain rotenone, are often used for fish poison throughout the Pacific.

***Desmodium heterophyllum** (Willd.) DC.

Fijian name, senivakacegu, wakutu

Recent introduction. Rare. Localised weed near campsite.

Erythrina variegata var. **orientalis** (L.) Merr. "coral tree", "dadap"
syns. *E. indica* Lam.; *E. corallodendron* var. *orientalis* (L.) Merr.

Fijian name: drala, rara

Indigenous. Indo-Pacific Single seedling growing from a drift seed on beach on the east side of the island. Trunks and thick branches used for living fence posts, and in canoe construction in the past; flowers used in garlands in the past.

***Leucaena leucocephala** (Lam.) de Wit. "leucaena"
syn. *L. glauca* (L.) Benth.

Fijian name: vaivai, vaivai ni Viti, vaivai ni Vavalagi

Recent introduction. Trop. America. Abundant and naturalised throughout inland areas, often extending to the beach margin.

Sophora tomentosa L. "silverbush"

Fijian name: mocemoce (Naigani)

Indigenous. Indian Ocean to E. Polynesia and Micronesia. Rare. One or two bushes in areas just inland from beach berm.

Vigna manna (Burm.) Merr. beach pea

Fijian name: drautolu

Indigenous. Pantropical. Abundant in beach margins, in the outpost zone and climbing on vegetation in the interior of the island.

GOODENIACEAE (Naupaka Family)

Scaevola taccada (Gaertn.) Roxb. "saltbush", "half-flower"
syn. *Scaevola sericea* Vahl .

Fijian name: vevedu

Indigenous. Trop. Asia to Hawaii. Very abundant in outpost vegetation, forming almost single species stands on the east side of the island. Common in inland areas.

HERNANDIACEAE (Hernandia Family)

Hernandia nymphaeifolia (Presl.) Kubr. "lantern tree"
 syns. *H. sonora* L.; *H. peltata* Meisn

Fijian name: evuevu

Indigenous. Trop. Asia to Pacific Is. Occasional. Common. One of the main large trees on the island, comprising the main species in the interior of the island.

LAURACEAE (Laurel Family)

Cassytha filiformis L. "beach dodder", "giant dodder", "devil's twine"

Fijian name: wa lutumailagi

Indigenous. Pantropical. Abundant. Parasite on other plants, generally in almost all coastal areas

LECYTHIDACEAE (Brazilnut Family)

Barringtonia asiatica (L.) Kurz. "fish-poison tree", "barringtonia"

Fijian name, vutu, vutu rakaraka

Indigenous. Indo-Pacific. Occasional as small tree or seedlings in inland areas.

MALVACEAE (Mallow Family)

?**Abutilon indicum** (L.) Sweet

Indigenous?. Rare? What looked like one small seedling from drift seed. Not collected.; could have been a seedling of *Hibiscus tiliaceus*. Reported once from Vanuabalavu (Smith 1981:439).

Hibiscus tiliaceus L. "beach hibiscus", hibiscus tree"

Fijian name: vau

Indigenous. Pantropical. Locally common in beach thickets and in inland areas. Important medicinal plant, leaves occasionally used as pig feed, bast fibre used to make skirts, garlands and other handicrafts, straight branches used in construction and canoe making.

Thespesia populnea (L.) Sol. ex Correa "thespesia", "milo" (Hawaii)

Fijian name: mulomulo

Indigenous. Paleotropics. Rare. One small seedling grown from a drift seed seen on the beach on the west side of the island inside the pass.

MELIACEAE (Mahogany Family)

Dysoxylum richii (A, Gray) C. DC. "stinkwood"

Fijian name: sasauira, sasawira, tarawau kei rakaka, sorovula

Indigenous. One single tree about 5 m high found in the interior of the island near the south end of the island.

Xylocarpus moluccensis (Lam.) Roem. "cannonball tree"
syn. *Carapa moluccensis* Lam.

Fijian name: dabi

Indigenous. Rare. One single small tree about 3 m high just inland from the beach on the west side of the island.

MYRTACEAE (Myrtle Family)

***Psidium guajava** L. "guava"

Fijian name: quwawa

Recent introduction. Trop. America. Rare. One single seedling found in interior of the island.

OLACACEAE

Ximenia americana L.

syn. *Ximenia elliptica* Forst. f

Fijian name: somisomi, sosomi?

Indigenous. Single individual in outpost zone of the beach at the west end of the island.

PASSIFLORACEAE (Passion Flower Family)

***Passiflora foetida** L. "stinking passion flower",
syn. *P. hispida* DC. ex Triana & Planch

Recent introduction. Trop. America. Occasional. Creeping or climbing perennial herbaceous vine in thickets and on paths. Fruit subglobose to ovoid, yellowish-orange to red-orange, leathery, thin-walled, surrounded bracts, seeds, many, surrounded by scanty, slimy, sweetly-tart yellowish-orange pulpy aril, edible.

PIPERACEAE (Pepper Family)

Piper aduncum L.

Fijian name: yaqona ni Onolulu, onolulu, wanalulu, yaqoyaqona

Recent introduction. Uncommon. Locally naturalised in a few places in the center of the island. Apparently introduced in the early 1920's and now widely naturalised and weedy in the wet and intermediate zones of Viti Levu. Valued as firewood.

RHAMNACEAE (Buckthorn Family)

Colubrina asiatica (L.) Brongn. "soapbush", "hoop withe"
syns. *Ceanothus asiaticus* L.; *Ceanothus capsularis* Forst. f

Fijian name: vusolevu, vere?

Indigenous. Paleotropical. Locally common in inland and coastal thickets. A traditional source of soap in other Pacific islands.

RHIZOPHORACEAE (*Mangrove Family*)

?**Rhizophora stylosa** Griff "mangrove"

Fijian name: tiri, tiritirawai

Indigenous. E. Asia to Micronesia and W. Polynesia. Single seedling found on the beach near the north end of the island. Could have been *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*, but not collected, as it was the only specimen.

RUBIACEAE (Coffee Family)**Guettarda speciosa** L.

"guettarda"

Fijian name: buabua, buabua ni baravi

Indigenous. Trop. Asia to the Pacific Is. Occasional in coastal and inland tree groves. Flowers used in garlands and for scenting coconut oil; wood used in handicrafts; leaves boiled with pandanus (**voivoi**) leaves to dye them black.

Morinda citrifolia L.

"beach mulberry"

Fijian name: kura

Indigenous. Trop. Asia and Australia to S.E. Polynesia. Occasional in inland sites and as seedlings in strand vegetation Very important medicinal plant; ripe fruit eaten by older people; dark red dye from roots used to colour pandanus mats, fans and other handicrafts.

RUTACEAE (Rue Family)**Citrus limon** (L.) Burm. f. x **medica** L.

"

rough lemon"

Fijian name: moli karokaro, moli kurukuru

Recent introduction. E. Asia. Rare. One single bearing tree seen near the centre of the island. Believed to be a hybrid between the lemon and the citron which exhibits almost complete nucellar embryony so that stocks are very uniform (Purseglove 1968:504). Juice used to make drinks, to squeeze on food, especially fish, and to marinate raw fish; leaves boiled to make tea.

VERBENACEAE (Verbena Family)**Clerodendrum****inerme**

(L.)

Gaertn

"beach privet"

Fijian name: vere, verevere

Indigenous. Indomalaysia, Australia and the Pacific Is. Shrub up to 4 m in height. Common in coastal vegetation, an inland, often climbing into trees and shrubs.

Lantana camara L. var. **aculeata** (L.) Mold.

"lantana"

Recent introduction. Trop. America. Rare. A few plants seen in thickets in interior of the island.

Premna serratifolia L.

syns. *P. obtusifoha* R. Br.; *P. taitensis* Schauer

Fijian name: yaro, araro

Indigenous. Indo-Pacific Rare small tree in center of the island.

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Appendix. Abbreviated checklist of the flora of Makaluva Islet, Rewa Province, Viti Levu, Fiji.

PTERIDOPHYTA

POLYPODIACEAE (Common Fern Family)

Phymatosorus scolopendria (Burm. f.) Pichi-Serm. "scented fern"

ANGIOSPERMAE

MONOCOTYLEDONAE

ARACEAE (Arum Family)

***Alocasia macrorrhiza** (L.) Schott "giant taro", "elephant ears"

ARECACEAE (PALMAE) (Palm Family)

Cocos nucifera L. "coconut palm"

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Cyperus stoloniferus Retz. "beach sedge"

LILIACEAE (Including Agavaceae and Amaryllidaceae) (Lily Family)

***Crinum asiaticum** L. "spider lily", "crinum lily", "grand crinum"

***Hymenocallis littoralis** (Jacq.) Salisb. "spider lily"

PANDANACEAE (Pandanus Family)

Pandanus tectorius Warb. "pandanus", "screw pine"

POACEAE OR GRAMINAE (Grass Family)

***Brachiaria mutica** (Forsk.) Stapf "Para grass", "Mauritius grass"

Centotheca lappacea (L.) Desv.

Lepturus repens (G. Forst.) R Brown "bunch grass", "beach bunch grass"

?**Paspalum distichum** L. "knottgrass", "saltgrass", "knottweed"

Stenotaphrum micranthrum (Desv.) Hubb.

Thuarea involuta (Forst. f.) R Br. ex R & S

TACCACEAE (Polynesian-Arrowroot Family)

***Tacca leontopetaloides** (L.) O. Kuntze "Polynesian arrowroot"

DICOTYLEDONAE

ASTERACEAE OR COMPOSITAE (Aster, Sunflower or Composite Family)

- **Mikania micranthra* H. B. & K. "mile-a-minte"
 **Wedelia trilobata* (L.) Hitchc. "wedelia"
Wollstonia biflora (L.) DC. var *biflora* "beach sunflower"

BORAGINACEAE (Heliotrope Family)

- Cordia subcordata* Lam. "sea trumpet", "kou" (Hawai'i)
Tournefortia argentea L. f. "beach heliotrope"

CARICACEAE (Papaya Family)

- **Carica papaya* L. "papaya", "pawpaw"

CLUSIACEAE OR GUTTIFERAE (Mangosteen Family)

- Calophyllum inophyllum* L. "Portia tree", "Alexandrian laurel", "tomano"

COMBRETACEAE (Terminalia Family)

- Terminalia catappa* L. "tropical almond", "beach almond"

CONVOLVULACEAE (Morning-Glory Family)

- Ipomoea littoralis* R. Br. "littoral morning-glory"
Ipomoea macrantha R & S. "wild moon flower"
Ipomoea pes-caprae (L.) Sweet ssp. *brasiliense* (L.) v. Ooststr.

EUPHORBIACEAE (Spurge Family)

- Chamaesyce atoto* (Forst. f.) Croizat "beach spurge"
Excoecaria agallocha L. "blinding tree"

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- Acacia simplex* (Sparrman) Pedley "beach acacia"
Caesalpinia bonduc Roxb. "beach nicker", "gray nicker", "nicker bean"
Canavalia rosea (Sw.) DC.
 **Crotalaria pallida* Ait. "rattlepod"
Derris trifoliata Lour. "beach derris root", "beach poison vine"
 **Desmodium heterophyllum* (Willd.) DC.
Erythrina variegata var. *orientalis* (L.) Merr. "coral tree", "dadap"
 **Leucaena leucocephala* (Lam.) de Wit. "leucaena"
Sophora tomentosa L. "silverbush"
Vigna marina (Burm.) Merr. "beach pea"

GOODENIACEAE (Naupaka Family)

- Scaevola taccada* (Gaertn.) Roxb. "saltbush", "half-flower"

HERNANDIA CEAE (Hernandia Family)

- Hernandia nymphaeifolia* (Presl.) Kubr. "lantern tree"

LAURACEAE (Laurel Family)

Cassytha filiformis L. "beach dodder", "giant dodder", "devil's twine"

LECYTHEROACEAE (Brazilnut Family)

Barringtonia asiatica (L.) Kurz. "fish-poison tree", "barringtonia"

MALVACEAE (Mallow Family)

?**Abutilon indicum** (L.) Sweet

Hibiscus tiliaceus L.

"beach hibiscus", hibiscus tree"

Thespesia populnea (L.) Sol. ex Correa "thespesia", "milo" (Hawaii)

MELIACEAE (Mahogany Family)

Dysoxylum richii(A Gray) C. DC. "stinkwood"

Xylocarpus moluccensis (Lam.)Roem. "cannonball tree"

MYRTACEAE (Myrtle Family)

***Psidium guajava** L. "guava"

OLACACEAE

Ximenia americana L.

PASSIFLORACEAE (Passion Flower Family)* Passiflora foetida L. "stinking passion flower",

PIPERACEAE (Pepper Family)

* **Piper aduncum** L.

RHAMNACEAE (Buckthorn Family)

Colubrina asiatica (L.) Brongn. "soapbush", "hoop withe"

RHIZOPHORACEAE (Mangrove Family)

?**Rhizophora stylosa** Griff "mangrove"

RUBIACEAE (Coffee Family)

Guettarda speciosa L.

"guettarda"

Morinda citrifolia L. "beach mulberry"

RUTACEAE (Rue Family)

Citrus limon (L.) Burm. f x **medica** L. " rough lemon"

VERBENACEAE (Verbena Family)

Clerodendrum inermis (L.) Gaertn. "beach privet"

Lantana camara L. var. **aculeata** (L.) Mold. "lantana"

Premna serratifolia L.