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Invasive Species in Hawaii: The Erythrina Gall Wasp. In Hawaii, many wiliwili trees are found lacking both leaves and colorful flowers. The dying tall wiliwili stand up from the ground like ragged fence posts, and the native wiliwili trees look gnarled with their infected leaves. I noticed this everywhere I went, and considered some questions. How could so many trees become infected in such a short amount of time? Who or what was responsible? I soon found the answer to that question with a one-millimeter-long insect: the Erythrina gall wasp. A graduate student was the first to gather leaves and stems affected by the gall wasp in Oahu on April 19, 2005. It has no threat or predator on Oahu. Female wasps lay eggs inside the leaves and stems of the wiliwili, and swollen lumps form as the wasps develop. Their whole development occurs inside their swollen homes, and after 20 days, the completely developed wasps leave by way of small holes. This process is what makes the wiliwili appear so haggard. It may seem like a sad time for the wiliwili, but scientists are doing all that they can to help. One way scientists are helping is through biological control, where entomologists are trying to find regular predators of the Erythrina gall wasp in Africa, to control the Erythrina gall wasp population. They are also experimenting with insecticides, such as imidacloprid. So far, the trees remain bare, but with the scientists' hard work, hopefully we can pull through to save this special native tree.