

44. *ARGYREIA NERVOSA* (Burm.) Bojer (CONVOLVULACEAE) — Wood Rose, Silver Morning Glory



For a while, Hawaii shipped the rose-like capsules to the U.S. and Europe. Since so many other Americans, in addition to poor Hawaiians, were abusing the seeds as an hallucinogen, an embargo was placed on continued shipment of the wood rose.<sup>54</sup> Still, they are frequently sold for use in dry flower arrangements.<sup>51</sup> Possibly more important to the counterculture as a herbal high,<sup>51</sup> induced, according to an anonymous writer, by 4 to 8 grams seed, chewed or taken in capsules. "At first you will feel weak and lethargic. If you have a sensitive stomach, you may get nauseated for about fifteen minutes. If so sip a little warm water or mint tea and allow yourself to vomit if necessary. Dramamine . . . may also help. After this has passed you will feel very relaxed and peaceful yet very aware. This state of bliss lasts for about three or four hours and is followed by a gradual descent to normality except that you will probably feel unusually relaxed and mellow for several days."<sup>51</sup> Sounds too good to be true! See toxicity!

Reported to be anodyne<sup>33</sup> in Haiti, rubefacient and vesicant in the Philippines.<sup>6</sup> Immature seeds contain lysergic acid amides, and, according to one anonymous author, innocuously small quantities of strychnine and other alkaloids.<sup>51</sup> Various species of *Argyreia* contain amides of lysergic acid, e.g., chanoclavine, ergine, ergonovine, and isoergine.<sup>54</sup>

**Toxicity** — Classed as a narcotic hallucinogen, packing a miserable hangover with blurred vision, constipation, nausea, physical inertia, and vertigo.<sup>54</sup>