

SILVER BUCKTHORN

Sideroxylon alachuense L.C. Anderson

Synonyms: *Bumelia anomala* (Sarg.) Clark

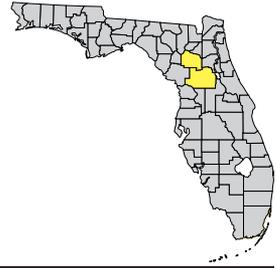
Bumelia lanuginosa var. *anomala* Sarg.

Family: Sapotaceae (sapodilla)

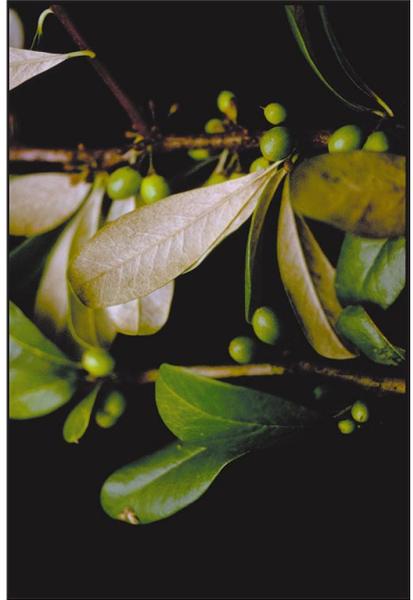
FNAI Ranks: G1/S1

Legal Status: US—none FL—Endangered

Wetland Status: US—UPL FL—UPL



Loran C. Anderson



Loran C. Anderson

Field Description: Small tree to 30 feet tall, twigs light colored (current season's shoots are silvery or green) and nearly hairless when mature, with sharp, green thorns that become short spur-shoots. Leaves 1.5 - 3 inches long, simple, alternate; leaf tips blunt, rounded, or notched; upper surface dark green, lower surface silvery due to smooth, dense covering of hairs; drought-stressed plants have tawny hairs on the lower surface. Flowers with 5 - 6 white petals, each with a stamen and appendage on the inner surface; 10 - 20 flowers clustered on each spur-shoot. Fruits black, oblong.

Similar Species: Woolly buckthorn (*Sideroxylon lanuginosa*) and tough buckthorn (*Sideroxylon tenax*) have brown, hairy twigs and leaves with scruffy, rusty-brown hairs on lower surfaces. Tough buckthorn plants on shell middens in GA and SC have silvery twigs and leaves and closely resemble (and may be intermediate forms of) silver buckthorn.

Related Rare Species: See Thorne's buckthorn (*Sideroxylon thornei*) in this guide.

Silver buckthorn

Sideroxylon alachuense

Habitat: Upland hardwood forests around limesinks and on shell mounds.

Best Survey Season: Can be identified throughout growing season by silvery undersurface of leaves and nearly hairless twigs.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to north-central Florida and adjacent area in southeast GA (hammocks on shell midden within Okefenokee Swamp).

Conservation Status: Only 4 populations are known in the wild in FL, with fewer than 30 plants, most in conservation areas.

Protection & Management: Avoid logging around shell mounds and limesinks. Fence known populations to exclude deer. Conduct field surveys.

References: Anderson 1997, Anderson 2000, Coile 2000, Godfrey 1988, Nelson 1996, Pennington 1990, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

