

EVERGLADES LEAF LACE

Alvaradoa psilophylla Urban

Synonyms: *Alvaradoa amorphoides* Liebm.;

Alvaradoa amorphoides Liebm. ssp. *psilophyllis*

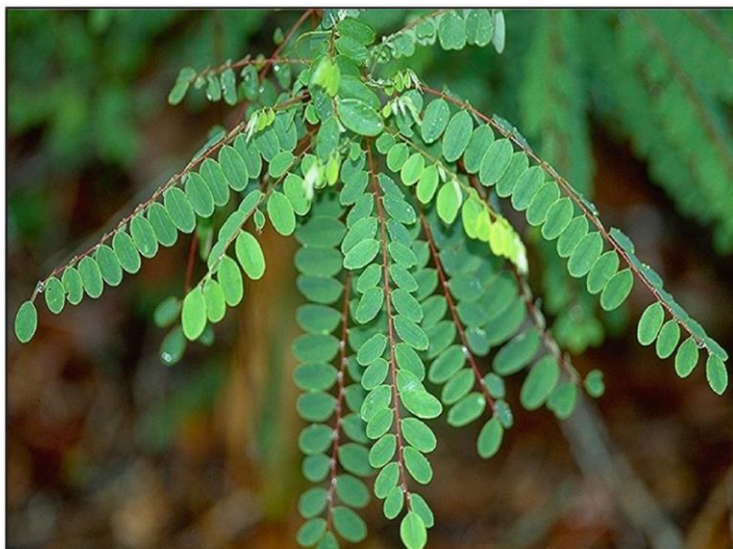
(Urban) Cronq.; *Alvaradoa amorphoides* Liebm.

ssp. *psilophylla* (Urban) Cronquist

Family: Picramniaceae (bitterbush)

FNAI Ranks: G5TNR/S1

Legal Status: US-none; FL-none



Gil Nelson

Field Description: Small **tree or erect shrub** to 1 - 7 m tall with hairy, jointed **twigs** and smooth, red-brown **branches** covered with small corky patches and leaf scars. **Leaves** alternate, 10 - 30 cm long, with 15 - 40 delicate, oval **leaflets** with smooth margins, each less than 2.5 cm long and arranged both alternately and oppositely. **Male and female flowers** in drooping spikes up to 40 cm long, on separate trees; **flowers** with no petals and a 5-lobed calyx. **Fruits** are dry, hairy, winged, flattened capsules.

Similar Species: Two shrubs in the pea family resemble this species. Crenulate lead plant (*Amorpha herbacea* var. *crenulata*), included in this guide, is a shrub to 1.5 m tall; its leaflets have scalloped edges. Necklace pod (*Sophora tomentosa*) is shrubbier, with pointed leaflets, white-hairy branches, and yellow flowers; it occurs on the edges of coastal hammocks.

Related Rare Species: See bitterbush (*Picramnia pentandra*) in this guide.

Habitat: Pine rocklands and transition zones with rockland hammocks in mainland Dade County (not known from the Keys).

Best Survey Season: Winter-spring; November - December, but fruit, leaves, or branches are recognizable all year.

Range-wide Distribution: Florida, West Indies, and Central America.

Conservation Status: Six populations are known, all protected on public lands, including Everglades National Park.

Protection and Management: Eradicate exotic plant species. Use prescribed fire to maintain ecotones between pine rocklands and rockland hammocks.

References: Coile 2000, Elias 1987, IRC 1999, Nelson 1996, Tomlinson 1980, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

