

LOCUSTBERRY

Byrsonima lucida (P. Mill.) DC.

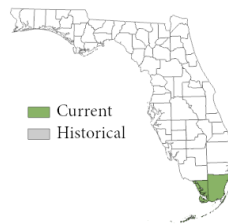
Synonyms: none

Family: Malpighiaceae (malpighia)

FNAI Ranks: G4G5/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-FAC



Camille Eckel



Gary Knight

Field Description: A wide-spreading shrub to small tree. On the extreme, this attractive species has can grow up to 25 feet in hammocks, but it more commonly reaches 15 feet or so with a canopy spread of at least 15 feet where it has room to do so. Its brownish-gray trunk (sometimes multi-trunked) begins to take on a bumpy texture at a young age, becoming more gnarly as it ages. The spatulate or obovate, 1 to 2 inch long, opposite, upward-held leaves may have rounded or delicately pointed tips, and are shiny, dark green above, paler below. The white/yellow/pink/orange flowers occur in clusters of multi-colored 5-petalled blossoms, each cluster about an inch to 1½ inches across. Edible fruit, when mature, is a fleshy, golden-brown berry about ½ inch in diameter.

Similar Species: None in FL.

Related Rare Species: None in FL.

locustberry

Byrsonima lucida

Habitat: Found in hammocks, pinelands, and higher reaches of rock barrens of the Keys and the Everglades.

Best Survey Season: All year.

Range-wide Distribution: Native to South Florida and the West Indies.

Conservation Status: Listed as Endangered by the Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services (Coile 1996). Listed as a Facultative Wetland Plant by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Wunderlin et al. 1996).

Protection and Management: Removal of exotics such as Brazilian Pepper, Melaleuca, Australian Pine, and Burma Reed is the most important stewardship need. Prescribed fire is needed in many of the sites.

References: Coile 1996, Bradley and Gann 1996, Correll and Correll 1982, Glancy and Barbara 1992.