

SMALL-FLOWERED LILY THORN

Catesbya parviflora Swartz

Synonyms: *Echinodendrum parviflorum* (Sw.)

A. Rich.; *Catesbaea parviflora* Sw.

Family: Rubiaceae (coffee)

FNAI Ranks: G3?/S1

Legal Status: US-none; FL-none



Gil Nelson

Field Description: Erect **shrub**, usually less than 1.5 m tall, with a few **branches** densely covered with small, rounded, yellow-green, leathery **leaves**, most borne on short **spur shoots**. Paired **thorns**, about 13 mm long, extend beyond the leaves at each node. **Flowers** less than 13 mm long, white, tubular with 4 spreading lobes, borne on **spur shoots**. **Fruit** oval to round, white, less than 13 mm long.

Similar Species: No other species resembles small-flowered lily thorn.

Related Rare Species: Other rare species in the coffee family in this guide: Coker's beach creeper (*Ernodea cokeri*), princewood (*Exostema caribaeum*), Bahama wild coffee (*Psychotria ligustrifolia*), and pride-of-Big-Pine (*Strumpfia maritima*).

Habitat: Pine rocklands, hammocks, coastal strands, back dunes.

Best Survey Season: Easily recognizable all year.

Range-wide Distribution: Big Pine Key and Bahia Honda Key, FL; West Indies.

small-flowered lily thorn

Catesbya parviflora

Conservation Status: Two populations are known in conservation areas; there may be additional populations on private lands.

Protection and Management: Protect coastal areas and rocklands from development. Enforce plant protection laws and prosecute plant poachers. Control exotic pest plants.

References: Coile 2000, Correll and Correll 1982, IRC 1999, Nelson 1996, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

