

SPINY HACKBERRY

Celtis pallida var. *pallida* Torr.

Synonyms: *Celtis ehrenbergiana* (Klotzsch)

Liebmann.; *Momisia pallida* (Torrey) Planchon ex Small; *Celtis spinosa* Spreng. var. *pallida* (Torr.) M.C. Johnston.; *Celtis pallida* Torr.

Family: Cannabaceae (hops)

FNAI Ranks: G4TNR/S1

Legal Status: US-none; FL-none



Dick Workman

Field Description: Shrub to 3 m tall with pale, spreading branches. **Leaves** usually less than 2.5 cm long, alternate, simple, oval, somewhat fleshy, upper surfaces rough, leaf tips rounded, leaf margins entire to shallowly toothed; leaf nodes armed with straight, stout **spines** up to 2.5 cm long. **Flowers** white, inconspicuous, in small clusters in the angle of leaf and stems. **Fruit** small, round, yellow or orange.

Similar Species: Iguana hackberry (*Celtis iguanaea*), state-endangered, is a low, spreading shrub with stout, curved spines on branches and at leaf nodes. Leaves alternate, 4 - 7.5 cm long, rounded at the base, toothed along upper margins, with 3 prominent veins; upper surface smooth. Fruit is oval, orange or red.

Related Rare Species: None

Habitat: Shell mounds and middens in tropical coastal hammocks.

spiny hackberry

Celtis pallida var. *pallida*

Best Survey Season: Both species flower in summer and fruit in fall; leaves and spines are distinctive all year.

Range-wide Distribution: Spiny hackberry: FL, TX, NM, AZ, northern Mexico.

Conservation Status: Development and shell mining for fill have destroyed most of these species' habitat. Both species are known from only 3 preserves in SW FL.

Protection and Management: Monitor known populations. Protect shell mounds from mining and development.

References: Coile 2000, Correll and Correll 1982, D'arcy 1987, IRC 1999, Nelson 1996, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1982, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

