

BLACKTORCH

Erithalis fruticosa L.

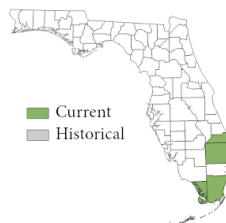
Synonyms: none

Family: Rubiaceae (coffee)

FNAI Ranks: G5/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-FAC



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Field Description: A medium sized shrub to 8 feet high. Leaves are opposite, obovate, 1-3 inches long, and glossy with somewhat rounded tips and smooth margins. Small white flowers with 5 narrow petals and inferior ovaries are clustered into axillary panicles. Mature fruits are shiny black berries.

Similar Species: None

Related Rare Species: None in FL.

Habitat: Rockland hammocks, Keys tidal rock barrens, dunes and spoil areas along roads.

Best Survey Season: All year.

Range-wide Distribution: South Florida (rare outside of the Keys), West Indies,

blacktorch

Erithalis fruticosa

Mexico and Central America.

Conservation Status: Listed state-threatened and tracked as vulnerable, this species is vouchered five counties in South Florida.

Protection and Management: Protect habitat from clearing, development and alteration. Eradicate invasive species.

References: Wunderlin and Hansen 2011