

HAWAII PEARLS

Guilandina major (DC.) Small

Synonyms: *Caesalpinia major* (Medik.) Dandy & Exell

Family: Fabaceae (pea)

FNAI Ranks: G4G5/S1

Legal Status: US-none; FL-Endangered



Susan Carr

Field Description: Scrambling, spiny **shrub** or **vine** with bi-pinnately compound **leaves**; leaflets typically numerous and fairly large; estipulate. **Flowers** in terminal racemes or panicles, with floral bracts acuminate and subulate. **Fruits** spiny, dehiscent, and with yellow seeds.

Similar Species: Gray nicker (*Guilandina bonduc*) has leaves with large, conspicuous stipules and gray seeds.

Related Rare Species: None

Habitat: Coastal strands.

Best Survey Season: Flowering and fruiting all year.

Range-wide Distribution: FL; West Indies; South America; Asia.

Conservation Status: The species is known from Florida Keys WEA, Biscayne National Park, Hattie Bauer Hammock, John Pennecamp Coral Reef State Park, and Vizcaya Museum and Gardens

Hawaii pearls

Guilandina major

Protection and Management: Protect existing coastal and rockland hammocks through conservation and eradicate invasive exotic species from known locations.

References: Coile 2000, Long and Lakela 1971, Weakley 2020, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011