

WHITE IRONWOOD

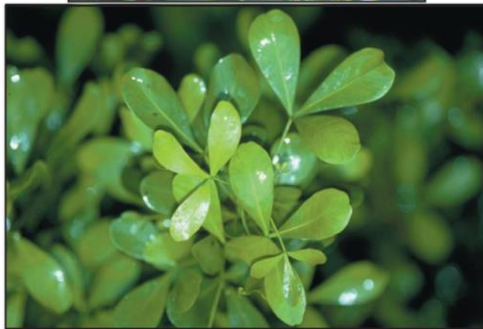
Hypelate trifoliata Sw.

Synonyms: *Amyris hypelate* A. Rob. ex Lunan

Family: Sapindaceae (soapberry)

FNAI Ranks: G4/S1

Legal Status: US-none; FL-Endangered



Field Description: Shrub or small tree, 4.5 - 12 m tall with smooth, reddish-gray bark. **Leaves** evergreen, alternate, shiny dark green, compound with 3 leaflets attached at a single point. **Leaflets** 3.8 - 5.1 cm long, wider above the middle, with rounded, notched tips. **Flowers** small, white, with 5 - 6 petals, **female and male flowers** in separate clusters on the same tree. **Fruit** a small, black, fleshy, one-seeded berry.

Similar Species: Inkwood (*Exothea paniculata*) has alternate, evergreen leaves with 2, 4, or 6 leaflets and bright red, scaling bark.

Related Rare Species: See small-fruited varnishleaf (*Dodonaea elaeagnoides*) and Florida cupania (*Cupania glabra*) in this guide.

Habitat: Rockland hammocks.

Best Survey Season: Spring-summer; April - July, but leaves are distinctive all year.

Range-wide Distribution: Dade County and Monroe County Keys, FL; Bahamas, Antilles.

white ironwood

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Conservation Status: White inkwood occurs in six conservation areas in the Keys and also in the Everglades.

Protection and Management: Purchase remaining fragments of rockland hammock and manage for conservation. Control exotic pest plant species.

References: Coile 2000, IRC 1999, Nelson 1996, Tomlinson 1980, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

