

## STAR ANISE

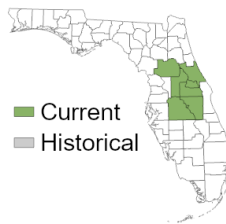
*Illicium parviflorum* Michx. ex Vent.

**Synonyms:** *Cymbostemon parviflorus* (Michx. ex Vent.) Spach

**Family:** Schisandraceae (star-vine)

**FNAI Ranks:** G2G3/S2S3

**Legal Status:** US-none; FL-Endangered



John Palis



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**Field Description:** **Shrub** with one to several trunks. **Leaves** to 15 cm long, alternate, evergreen, simple, entire, smooth, oval to oblong with blunt tips, upper surface glossy green, lower surface dotted with pale glands, set in close spirals at ends of twigs. **Flowers** less than 2.5 cm wide, with 6 - 12 rounded yellow petals, on drooping flower stalks. **Fruit** woody and star-shaped, less than 2.5 cm wide. Twigs, leaves, and flowers smell like anise.

**Similar Species:** Florida anise (*Illicium floridanum*), with maroon flowers and pointed leaves, occurs in baygalls and ravines in the FL Panhandle.

**Related Rare Species:** Bay starvine (*Schisandra glabra*), state-endangered, is a woody vine that occurs in mesic hammocks, wooded bluffs, and ravines within the Central FL Panhandle. Flowers are red and fruit is a red berry.

**Habitat:** Banks of spring-run or seepage streams, bottomland forests, hydric hammocks and baygalls dominated by red maple and sweet bay.

**Best Survey Season:** Spring; April - June, but fruits or aromatic leaves are distinctive all year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** FL endemic (GA report is of cultivated plants).

**Conservation Status:** Almost all known populations occur in five conservation areas, where it often forms a dense understory. It is widely used in landscaping and has been exploited for commercial use.

**Protection and Management:** Avoid logging and altering hydrology in forested wetlands. Shrubs will re-sprout after fire, although fire is not recommended. Enforce plant protection laws and prosecute poachers.

**References:** Coile 2000, Godfrey 1988, Kral 1983, Nelson 1996, Small 1933, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Wunderlin et al. 1980, Wunderlin et al. 2018.

