

## BAHAMA WILD COFFEE

*Psychotria ligustrifolia* (Northrop) Millsp.

**Synonyms:** *Psychotria bahamensis* Millsp.

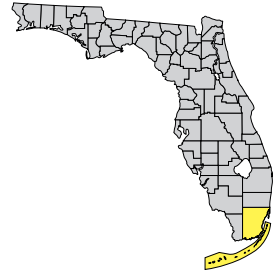
*Myrstiphyllum ligustrifolium* Northrop

**Family:** Rubiaceae (coffee)

**FNAI Ranks:** G4/S1

**Legal Status:** US—none FL—Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US—UPL FL—FAC



Gil Nelson

**Field Description:** Shrub to 6 feet tall. **Leaves** to 5 inches long and 1.5 inches wide, opposite, narrowed to the tip and tapering to a leafstalk; hairless except for hairs on the midrib on the underside; veins depressed, with tiny pits only in the angles of secondary veins on underside of leaves (visible with magnification). **Flowers** white, 5-lobed, on long, branching stalks arising in the angles of upper leaves and stem; **calyx** with stiff hairs. **Fruit** small, oval, red, fleshy.

**Similar Species:** Three other species of wild coffee occur in FL: *Psychotria sulzneri* has greenish flowers, hairy leaves, and no flower stalks; *Psychotria nervosa* has glossy leaves and shorter flower stalks; *Psychotria punctata* has many conspicuous pits on the undersides of leaves.

**Related Rare Species:** Other members of the coffee family in this guide: small-flowered lilythorn (*Catesbaea parviflora*), Coker's beach creeper (*Ernodea cokeri*), princewood (*Exostema caribaeum*), and pride-of-Big-Pine (*Strumpfia maritima*).

**Bahama wild coffee**

*Psychotria ligustrifolia*

**Habitat:** Rockland hammock.

**Best Survey Season:** Flowers spring and summer but leaves and growth habit are fairly distinctive all year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Dade County and Monroe County Keys, FL; West Indies.

**Conservation Status:** Known from 4 conservation areas in Dade County and Monroe County Keys.

**Protection & Management:** Eradicate exotic pest plants in hammocks. Purchase and protect remaining fragments of rockland.

**References:** Coile 2000, Correll and Correll 1982, IRC 1999, Nelson 1996, Tomlinson 1980, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

