BAHAMA MAIDENBUSH
Savia bahamensis Britt.
Synonym: Savia apiculata Urban
Family: Euphorbiaceae (spurge)
FNAI Ranks: G4/S2
Legal Status: US–none FL–Endangered
Wetland Status: US–UPL FL–UPL

Field Description: Shrub or small tree to 15 feet tall with erect branches. Leaves 0.8 - 2 inches long, alternate, simple, entire, oval to oblong, leathery, glossy, evergreen, often blotched with brown or purple, with conspicuously netted veins and a pale midvein; large brown stipules at base of leaf stalk. Male and female flowers small, with 5 greenish-white petals, on separate branches of the same plant; male flowers in dense clusters; female flowers usually solitary. Fruit a round, 3-parted capsule.

Similar Species: Many tropical shrubs in south Florida, such as coco-plum (Chrysobalanus icaco), have alternate, entire, oval leaves; Bahama maidenbush is distinguished by large brown stipules, erect branches, and conspicuous veins.

Related Rare Species: Several woody spurge species are rare in Florida. See in this guide: manchineel (Hippomane mancinella), milkbark (Drypetes diversifolia), and Blodgett’s wild mercury (Argythamnia blodgettii).
Bahama maidenbush  
*Savia bahamensis*

**Habitat:** Coastal thickets, pine rocklands, margins of tropical hammocks.

**Best Survey Season:** Flowers March–June.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Dade County and Monroe County Keys, FL; Bahamas, Cuba, Caicos Islands, Cayman Islands, Jamaica.

**Conservation Status:** Bahama maiden-bush is found in 7 preserves, primarily in the lower Keys.

**Protection & Management:** Eradicate exotic pest plants. Protect hammocks and pine rocklands from development.