

## BEACHBERRY

*Scaevola plumieri* (L.) Vahl

**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Goodeniaceae (goodenia)

**FNAI Ranks:** G5/S4

**Legal Status:** US-none FL-Threatened

**Wetland Status:** US-FAC\*+ FL-FAC



No Image  
Available

**Field Description:** This low, spreading shrub, grows to a height of about 5 feet; when given the opportunity over a long time-period, it will spread to several times as wide via rooting limbs which reach the ground. Alternate, spatulate, fleshy, green leaves, 2 to 4 inches long, including their short petioles, have a scooped-upward look and are more frequent near branch ends, with entire (smooth) margins often tending to fade to yellow. Flowers are white and often streaked with purple, ½ inch, tubular-to-fan-shaped with 5 outer lobes which have the appearance of being petals on only one side of the blossom. Fruits are smooth, black, juicy, ½ inch round with a pit containing 2 seeds.

**Similar Species:** Beach naupaka (*Scaevola taccada*) has white to yellowish fruit, instead of black, and calyx lobes that are 3.5-5 mm long.

**Related Rare Species:** None.

beachberry

*Scaevola plumieri*

**Habitat:** Coastal habitats (dunes/strands/grasslands).

**Best Survey Season:** All year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** South Florida, the West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Old World tropics.

**Conservation Status:** Planted as a seaside ornamental, and apparently secure in the wild in central and south Florida.

**Protection and Management:** Care should be taken when buying this plant for landscaping. Beach Naupaka (*S. frutescens*), an invasive exotic, is a close kin.

**References:** Wunderlin and Hansen 2011