

BUCKTHORN

Sideroxylon lycioides L.

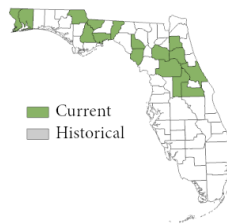
Synonyms: none

Family: Sapotaceae (sapodilla)

FNAI Ranks: G5/S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-FACW+ FL-FAC



No Image
Available

Field Description: Shrub or small tree 10-20 m tall with zig-zag branches with thorns. Leaves alternate, deciduous, elliptic to oblanceolate, from 8 to 14 cm long and widest at or below the middle (1-5 cm wide). The upper and lower surfaces of mature leaves are smooth, mid-rib has white hairs. The small white flowers are borne in umbels on smooth stems. Berries are oval-round, black, and 1-1.5 cm wide.

Similar Species: *Sideroxylon lycioides* differs from the other six Florida species of *Sideroxylon* with the combination of smooth upper and lower leaf surfaces, smooth stems and leaves that are usually longer than 8 cm (FNA 2009, Godfrey 1988, Nelson 1994).

Related Rare Species: *Sideroxylon lycioides* differs from the other six Florida species of *Sideroxylon* with the combination of smooth upper and lower leaf

buckthorn

Sideroxylon lycioides

surfaces, smooth stems and leaves that are usually longer than 8 cm (FNA 2009, Godfrey 1988, Nelson 1994).

Habitat: Bottomland forests, hydric hammocks, and borders of cypress swamps.

Best Survey Season: Spring; April - June

Range-wide Distribution: Buckthorn extends north from Florida to Virginia, west to Missouri, and south to Texas. In Florida, buckthorn occurs south to Orange County and west to Escambia County.

Conservation Status: 17 extant populations are found in Florida. Many of these occur on conservation lands.

Protection and Management: Avoid alterations to the natural hydrological regime.

References: (FNA) Flora of North America Editorial Committee. 2009. Flora of North America north of Mexico, Vol. 8: Magnoliophyta: Paeoniaceae to Ericaceae. Oxford University Press, New York. Godfrey, R. K. 1988. Trees, shrubs, and woody vines of northern Florida and adjacent Georgia and Alabama. The University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA. Nelson, G. 1994. The trees of Florida. Pineapple Press, Sarasota, FL