

SILKY CAMELLIA

Stewartia malacodendron L.

Synonyms: none

Family: Theaceae (tea)

FNAI Ranks: G4/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL



Stunning solitary flowers blooming from axils of leaves; flowers with five white petals and 50-100 purple stamens. Photo taken at Joe Budd WMA by Kelly Anderson.

Field Description:

Similar Species: None.

Related Rare Species: None.

Habitat: Bluff and ravine forests, steepheads, and bayheads; on acid soils.

Best Survey Season: Spring.

Range-wide Distribution: Primarily Coastal Plain, se. VA south to FL, west to se. TX, but extending inland to the Piedmont of GA, NC, and SC and the Mountains of AL and NC.

silky camellia

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Conservation Status: The species appears to be stable within its FL range and has many of the known populations protected on managed land.

Protection and Management: Protect from logging habitat for valuable timber species (e.g. oaks) and development and conversion of habitat to residential use.

References: Weakley 2022, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011



Stunning solitary flowers blooming from axils of leaves; leaves alternate and pubescent. Photo taken at Joe Budd WMA by Kelly Anderson.

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Growing on upper slope of Upland Hardwood Forest above Richlander Creek. Photo taken at Joe Budd WMA by Kelly Anderson.