

PAIN-IN-THE-BACK

Trema lamarckianum (J.A. Schultes) Blume

Synonyms: *Trema lamarckiana* (Roem. & Schult.) Blume

Family: Cannabaceae (hops)

FNAI Ranks: G5/S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-FAC



No Image
Available

Field Description: This shrub or often gangly small tree to 20 feet has a slender trunk with gray-brown, slightly rough bark, branches which are conspicuously perpendicular to trunk, and fuzzy twigs and leaves. Evergreen, alternate leaves are dull dark green, smaller than *Trema micranthum* at up to 1½ inches long, are ovate to lanceolate with oblique bases, are slightly rough above, velvety below, and have toothed margins. The unisexual or bisexual flowers occur in axillary clusters, lacking petals but having a whitish to pinkish/yellowish calyx. The fruit is a single-seeded drupe, 1/16 to 1/8 of an inch across, more pink than the orange of *T. micranthum* fruit, in small clusters strung rather densely all along the long twigs.

Similar Species: Similar to *T. micranthum*, but only found in the Upper Keys. Plants occur in the same types of areas.

Related Rare Species: See *T. micranthum*.

Habitat: Brighter portions of hammocks and shell middens, as well as in slightly disturbed adjacent areas.

Best Survey Season: All year.

Range-wide Distribution: South Florida and the West Indies.

Conservation Status: Occurs within brighter portions of hammocks and shell middens, as well as in slightly disturbed adjacent areas; along the margins of woodlands, roadways, and stream banks. Ten known occurrences, eight are on public or conservation lands. Two are found on private lands.

Protection and Management: *Trema lamarckiana* is considered a pioneer species and can grow in a wide range of disturbed areas. Reproduction can be enhanced by disturbing the soil close to seed-bearing plants before the seasonal rain begins.

References: Little 1979, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011