

FLORIDA MAYTEN

Tricerna phyllanthoides (Benth.) Lundell

Synonyms: *Maytenus phyllanthoides* Benth.

Family: Celastraceae (bittersweet)

FNAI Ranks: G3G5/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened

Wetland Status: US-FAC*+ FL-FAC



Camille Eckel



Kim Alexander



Jenna Annis

Field Description: A distinctive, sprawling shrub that may grow up to 12 feet tall. The alternate, yellow-green, succulent leaves are 1 to 1 ½ inches long, obovate in shape, with entire margins and rounded tips. Flowers are small and green, solitary or in small clusters in the leaf axils. Fruits are capsules that split at maturity to expose seeds covered in bright red arils.

Similar Species: None in FL.

Related Rare Species: None in FL.

Habitat: Coastal rockland hammock edges.

Best Survey Season: Spring-summer.

Range-wide Distribution: Coastal areas of Central and South Florida. Also

Florida mayten*Tricerna phyllanthoides*

occurring along the Texas coast and into Mexico, the Bahamas, and Cuba.

Conservation Status: State-threatened and tracked as vulnerable, this species is vouchered for the 13 counties along the gulf coast and south Florida.

Protection and Management: Protect rocklands and coastal habitats by conservation easement or purchase. Eradicate exotic pest plants.

References: Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Little 1979.