

CINNECORD

Vachellia choriophylla (Benth.) Seigler & Ebinger

Synonyms: *Acacia choriophylla* Benth.

Family: Fabaceae (pea)

FNAI Ranks: G4/SU

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-FAC*+ FL-UPL



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Field Description: A small tree with an equal canopy spread that may reach heights of 25 feet or more on higher ground, although a height of 15 feet is more common. Often has small, tough stipular spines in the leaf axils. Leaves are 4-8 inches long, alternate, and bipinnately compound with 3-8 opposite pairs of leaflets, each of these $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long and half as wide. Leaflets are shiny and dark green above/lighter below with smooth margins that are sometimes slightly turned under. The tiny yellow flowers are packed into dense, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch spherical heads borne on stalks in the leaf axils. These flower heads often occur in clusters. The fruits are woody, dark brown, 2 to 3 inch pods, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide, bearing less than a dozen seeds.

Similar Species: None

Related Rare Species: Poponax (*Vachellia tortuosa*), state-endangered,

cinnecord*Vachellia choriophylla*

differentiated from cinnecord by having 4-8 pairs of pinnae, each with 15-20 pairs of leaflets; fruit terete or nearly so.

Habitat: Pine rocklands, buttonwood hammocks and upland edges of mangrove swamps.

Best Survey Season: Spring.

Range-wide Distribution: Originally native to South Florida, the Bahamas, and Cuba. Believed to be extirpated in Florida. All current occurrences are thought to be either planted or escaped from cultivation.

Conservation Status: Despite the questionable nativity of cinnecord trees in Florida, the species is still on the Florida Endangered list. Until the official designation changes, its occurrence is worth noting

Protection and Management: Not populated in Biotics

References: Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Little 1979, Correll and Correll 1982.