

EVERGLADES LEAF LACE
MEXICAN ALVARADOA

Alvaradoa amorphoides Liebm.

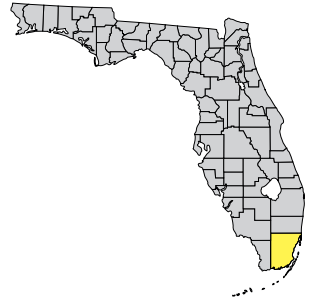
Synonyms: none

Family: Simaroubaceae (quassia)

FNAI Ranks: G5/S1

Legal Status: US—none FL—Endangered

Wetland Status: US—UPL FL—UPL



Gil Nelson

Field Description: Small **tree or erect shrub** to 45 feet tall with hairy, jointed **twigs** and smooth, red-brown **branches** covered with small corky patches and leaf scars. **Leaves** alternate, 4 - 12 inches long, with 15 - 40 delicate, oval **leaflets** with smooth margins, each less than 1 inch long and arranged both alternately and oppositely. **Male and female flowers** in drooping spikes up to 16 inches long, on separate trees; **flowers** with no petals and a 5-lobed calyx. **Fruits** are dry, hairy, winged, flattened capsules.

Similar Species: Two shrubs in the pea family resemble this species. Crenulate lead plant (*Amorpha herbacea* var. *crenulata*), included in this guide, is a shrub to 5 feet tall; its leaflets have scalloped edges. Necklace pod (*Sophora tomentosa*) is shrubbier, with pointed leaflets, white-hairy branches, and yellow flowers; it occurs on the edges of coastal hammocks.

Related Rare Species: See bitterbush (*Picramnia pentandra*) in this guide.

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Habitat: Pine rocklands and transition zones with rockland hammocks in mainland Dade County (not known from the Keys).

Best Survey Season: Flowers November–December, but fruit, leaves, or branches are recognizable all year.

Range-wide Distribution: FL, West Indies, and Central America.

Conservation Status: Six populations are known, all protected on public lands, including Everglades National Park.

Protection & Management: Eradicate exotic plant species. Use prescribed fire to maintain ecotones between pine rocklands and rockland hammocks.

References: Coile 2000, Elias 1987, IRC 1999, Nelson 1996, Tomlinson 1980, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

