

BAHAMA STRONGBARK

Bourreria succulenta Jacq.

Synonyms: none

Family: Ehretiaceae (ehretia)

FNAI Ranks: G4G5/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL



Gil Nelson



Amy Jenkins

Field Description: This is a large, woody species with spreading, often drooping branches. It can be a shrub or small tree with a trunk 2-6 inches in diameter and as tall as 28 ft tall, although specimens are typically 10-15 ft in height. Leaves are smooth, shiny, and glabrous and usually about 2-3 inches long with rounded or notched tips. Although this species can have rough leaves when young, the smooth adult leaves distinguish this species from the two other species of strongbark. Flowers are creamy white, aromatic, and somewhat showy, about ½ inch wide. Ripe fruits are orange to reddish-orange drupes.

Similar Species: Rough strongbark (*Bourreria radula*), state-endangered, is a shrub or tree to 15 feet tall; bark thin, scaly, reddish-brown; leaves 1 - 2.6 inches long, dark green and densely rough-hairy on upper surfaces; flowers white, in few-flowered clusters, fruit small and orange.

Bahama strongbark

Bouerreria succulenta

Related Rare Species: Rough strongbark (*Bouerreria radula*), state-endangered, is a shrub or tree to 15 feet tall; bark thin, scaly, reddish-brown; leaves 1 - 2.6 inches long, dark green and densely rough-hairy on upper surfaces; flowers white, in few-flowered clusters, fruit small and orange.

Habitat: Grows on coastal berms and in rockland hammocks.

Best Survey Season: All year.

Range-wide Distribution: South Florida, the Bahamas, and Cuba

Conservation Status: Listed state-endangered, this species is vouchered from three counties in South Florida.

Protection and Management: Protect remaining coastal berms and rockland hammocks in the Keys; control exotic pest plants.

References: Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Little 1979.