

SMALL-FLOWERED LILYTHORN

Catesbaea parviflora Sw.

Synonym: *Echinodendrum parviflorum* (Sw.) A. Rich.

Family: Rubiaceae (coffee)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S1

Legal Status: US—none FL—Endangered

Wetland Status: US—UPL FL—UPL



Gil Nelson

Field Description: Erect **shrub**, usually less than 5 feet tall, with a few **branches** densely covered with small, rounded, yellow-green, leathery **leaves**, most borne on short **spur shoots**. Paired **thorns**, about 0.5 inch long, extend beyond the leaves at each node. **Flowers** less than 0.5 inch long, white, tubular with 4 spreading lobes, borne on **spur shoots**. **Fruit** oval to round, white, less than 0.5 inch long.

Similar Species: No other species resembles small-flowered lily thorn.

Related Rare Species: Other rare species in the coffee family in this guide: Coker's beach creeper (*Ernodea cokeri*), princewood (*Exostema caribaeum*), Bahama wild coffee (*Psychotria ligustrifolia*), and pride-of-Big-Pine (*Strumpfia maritima*).

Small-flowered lilythorn

Catesbaea parviflora

Habitat: Pine rocklands, coastal strand, back dunes.

Best Survey Season: Easily recognizable all year.

Range-wide Distribution: Big Pine Key and Bahia Honda Key, FL; West Indies.

Conservation Status: Two populations are known in conservation areas; there may be additional populations on private lands.

Protection & Management: Protect coastal areas and rocklands from development. Enforce plant protection laws and prosecute plant poachers. Control exotic pest plants.

References: Coile 2000, Correll and Correll 1982, IRC 1999, Nelson 1996, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

