

## WHITE IRONWOOD

*Hypelate trifoliata* Sw.

**Synonyms:** *Amyris hypelate* A. Rob. ex Lunan

**Family:** Sapindaceae (soapberry)

**FNAI Ranks:** G4/S1

**Legal Status:** US-none FL-Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US-none+ FL-UPL



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**Field Description:** Shrub or small tree, 15 - 40 feet tall with smooth, reddish-gray bark. **Leaves** evergreen, alternate, shiny dark green, compound with 3 leaflets attached at a single point. **Leaflets** 1.5 - 2 inches long, wider above the middle, with rounded, notched tips. **Flowers** small, white, with 5 - 6 petals, **female and male flowers** in separate clusters on the same tree. **Fruit** a small, black, fleshy, one-seeded berry.

**Similar Species:** Inkwood (*Exothea paniculata*) has alternate, evergreen leaves with 2, 4, or 6 leaflets and bright red, scaling bark.

**Related Rare Species:** See small-fruited varnishleaf (*Dodonaea elaeagnoides*) and Florida cupania (*Cupania glabra*) in this guide.

**Habitat:** Rockland hammocks.

**white ironwood**

*Hypelate trifoliata*

**Best Survey Season:** Spring-summer; April - July, but leaves are distinctive all year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Dade County and Monroe County Keys, FL; Bahamas, Antilles.

**Conservation Status:** White inkwood occurs in six conservation areas in the Keys and also in the Everglades.

**Protection and Management:** Purchase remaining fragments of rockland hammock and manage for conservation. Control exotic pest plant species.

**References:** Coile 2000, IRC 1999, Nelson 1996, Tomlinson 1980, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.