

## BOG SPICEBUSH

*Lindera subcoriacea* B.E. Wofford

**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Lauraceae (laurel)

**FNAI Ranks:** G3/S1

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

**Wetland Status:** US-OBL+ FL-UPL



Bruce A. Sorrie

**Field Description:** **Shrub** with erect stems to 12 feet tall; new **twigs** hairy; older **twigs** with small whitish, spongy patches and a faint lemon smell when cut. **Leaves** 1.5 - 3.5 inches long (leaves on female plants are shorter than those on male plants); simple, alternate, entire, somewhat leathery, dark green above, pale green and hairy below; leaf base wedge-shaped, tip blunt; leaf stalk grooved; young leaves with faint lemon smell when crushed, otherwise leaves are odorless; leaves emerge after flowering. **Female and male flowers** on separate plants in clusters along leafless twigs; flowers with 6 pale yellow petals. **Fruit** oval, to 0.4 inch long, bright red.

**Similar Species:** Common spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) has strongly spicy-smelling leaves and twigs, yellow flowers, and larger leaves (2.4 - 4.8 inches long) usually widest above the middle with pointed tips. Common spicebush may occur in floodplains but rarely in bogs or permanently saturated areas.

## **bog spicebush**

*Lindera subcoriacea*

**Related Rare Species:** Pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*), state and federal endangered, has not been seen in FL since the 1800s.

**Habitat:** Evergreen-shrub bogs, acidic swamps of blackwater swamp forests and acidic seepage bogs.

**Best Survey Season:** Spring; February - March.

**Range-wide Distribution:** FL, GA, AL, MS, LA, SC, NC, VA.

**Conservation Status:** One population known on Eglin Air Force Base and another on Cross Florida Greenway.

**Protection and Management:** Protect streams from sedimentation during road construction and logging. Protect streamside wetlands from draining, logging, and clearing. Allow fires to burn into streamside wetlands. Avoid placing firebreaks in wetland ecotones.

**References:** Anderson 1999, Anderson 1995b, Coile 2000, FNA 2000, McCartney et al. 1989, Nelson 1996, Sorrie 1992, Wofford 1983, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.