

BAHAMA MAIDENBUSH

Savia bahamensis Britt.

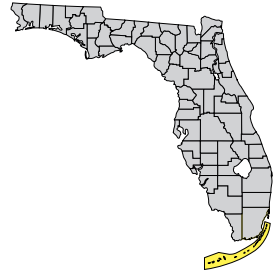
Synonym: *Savia apiculata* Urban

Family: Euphorbiaceae (spurge)

FNAI Ranks: G4/S2

Legal Status: US—none FL—Endangered

Wetland Status: US—UPL FL—UPL



Gil Nelson

Field Description: Shrub or small tree to 15 feet tall with erect branches.

Leaves 0.8 - 2 inches long, alternate, simple, entire, oval to oblong, leathery, glossy, evergreen, often blotched with brown or purple, with conspicuously netted veins and a pale midvein; large brown **stipules** at base of leaf stalk.

Male and female flowers small, with 5 greenish-white petals, on separate branches of the same plant; **male flowers** in dense clusters; **female flowers** usually solitary. **Fruit** a round, 3-parted capsule.

Similar Species: Many tropical shrubs in south Florida, such as coco-plum (*Chrysobalanus icaco*), have alternate, entire, oval leaves; Bahama maidenbush is distinguished by large brown stipules, erect branches, and conspicuous veins.

Related Rare Species: Several woody spurge species are rare in Florida. See in this guide: manchineel (*Hippomane mancinella*), milkbark (*Drypetes diversifolia*), and Blodgett's wild mercury (*Argythamnia blodgettii*).

Bahama maidenbush

Savia bahamensis

Habitat: Coastal thickets, pine rocklands, margins of tropical hammocks.

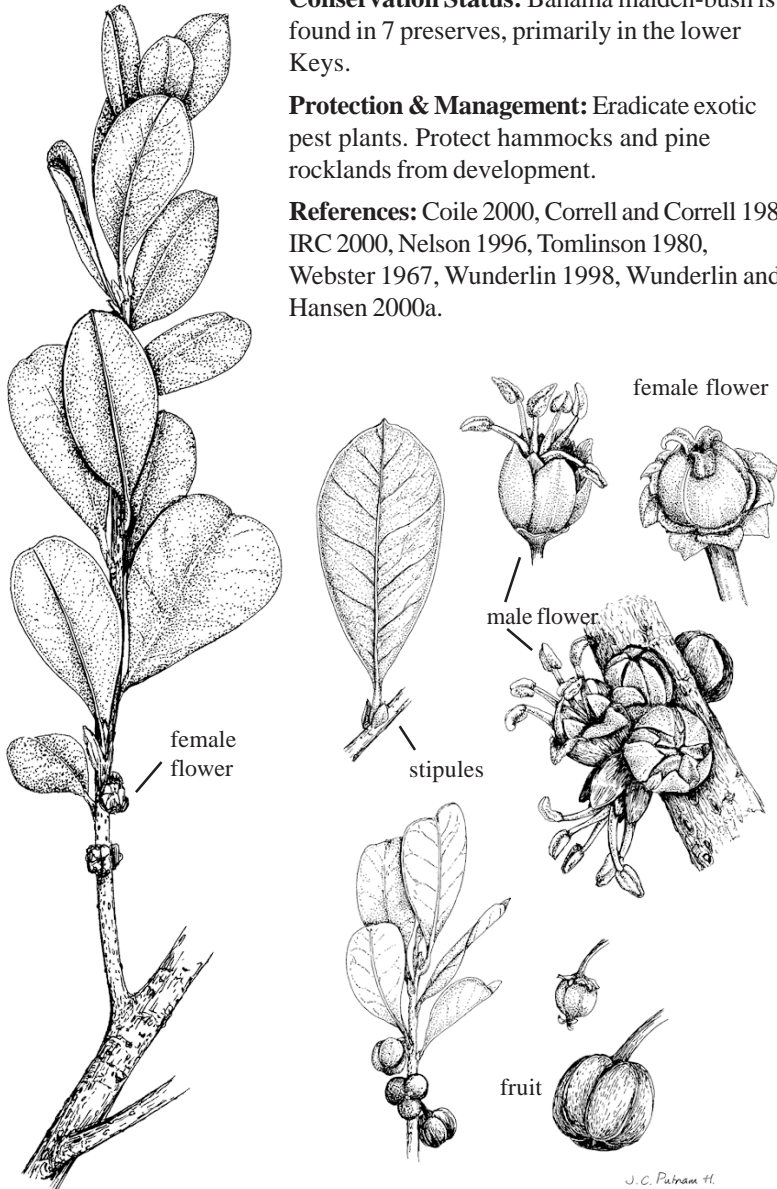
Best Survey Season: Flowers March–June.

Range-wide Distribution: Dade County and Monroe County Keys, FL; Bahamas, Cuba, Caicos Islands, Cayman Islands, Jamaica.

Conservation Status: Bahama maiden-bush is found in 7 preserves, primarily in the lower Keys.

Protection & Management: Eradicate exotic pest plants. Protect hammocks and pine rocklands from development.

References: Coile 2000, Correll and Correll 1982, IRC 2000, Nelson 1996, Tomlinson 1980, Webster 1967, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.



J. C. Putnam fl.