

SILVER BUCKTHORN

Sideroxylon alachuense L.C. Anderson

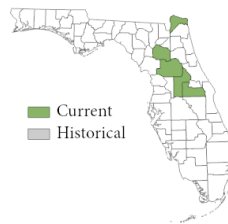
Synonyms: *Bumelia anomala* (Sarg.) Clark;
Bumelia lanuginosa (Michx.) Pers. var. *anomala*
Sarg.

Family: Sapotaceae (sapodilla)

FNAI Ranks: G1/S1

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL



Loran C. Anderson



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Field Description: Small **tree** to 30 feet tall, **twigs** light colored (current season's shoots are silvery or green) and nearly hairless when mature, with sharp, green thorns that become short **spur-shoots**. **Leaves** 1.5 - 3 inches long, simple, alternate; leaf tips blunt, rounded, or notched; upper surface dark green, lower surface silvery due to smooth, dense covering of hairs; drought-stressed plants have tawny hairs on the lower surface. **Flowers** with 5 - 6 white petals, each with a stamen and appendage on the inner surface; 10 - 20 flowers clustered on each **spur-shoot**. **Fruits** black, oblong.

Similar Species: Woolly buckthorn (*Sideroxylon lanuginosa*) and tough buckthorn (*Sideroxylon tenax*) have brown, hairy twigs and leaves with scruffy, rusty-brown hairs on lower surfaces. Tough buckthorn plants on shell middens in GA and SC

silver buckthorn***Sideroxylon alachuense***

have silvery twigs and leaves and closely resemble (and may be intermediate forms of) silver buckthorn.

Related Rare Species: See Thorne's buckthorn (*Sideroxylon thornei*) in this guide.

Habitat: Upland hardwood forests around limesinks and on shell mounds; calcareous hammocks.

Best Survey Season: Summer; can be identified throughout growing season by silvery undersurface of leaves and nearly hairless twigs.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to north-central Florida and adjacent area in southeast GA (hammocks on shell midden within Okefenokee Swamp).

Conservation Status: Only 4 populations are known in the wild in FL, with fewer than 30 plants, most in conservation areas.

Protection and Management: Avoid logging around shell mounds and limesinks. Fence known populations to exclude deer. Conduct field surveys.

References: Anderson 1997, Anderson 2000, Coile 2000, Godfrey 1988, Nelson 1996, Pennington 1990, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.