

EVERGLADES BULLY

Sideroxylon reclinatum ssp. *austrofloridense*

Michx.

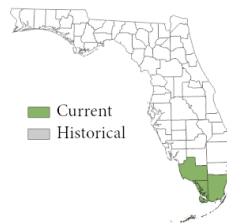
Synonyms: none

Family: Sapotaceae (sapodilla)

FNAI Ranks: G4G5T3/S3

Legal Status: US-Threatened FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-FAC



Keith Bradley

Field Description: Woody, erect, single to multi-stemmed **shrub** about 0.5-3 m in height. Young **twigs** usually have thorns at the nodes and are smooth, red-brown, and conspicuously dotted with lenticels while mature twigs are gray and granular in texture. **Leaves** are alternate, elliptic to obovate in shape, often involute, 3-5 cm long, and sparsely to densely pubescent with matted, curled hairs that begin light brown in color, eventually fading to gray. Venation on the blades is finely reticulate. The **inflorescence** arises from leaf axils and has 3-30 pedicillate flowers. The **calyx** consists of 2 outer **sepals** and 3 inner sepals which may be pubescent at anthesis. The **corolla** is 5-lobed, tubular, white, and about 1.5 mm long. The **ovary** is superior and glabrous to densely pubescent at anthesis. **Fruit** is a 1-seeded (occasionally 2-seeded) berry.

Similar Species: The other subspecies, Florida bully (*S. reclinatum* ssp. *reclinatum*),

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is most reliably distinguished from this one by micromorphological features, but usually has leaves that are much less hairy on the undersides and ovaries and sepals that are glabrous at anthesis.

Related Rare Species: Three other species of *Sideroxylon* that occur in Florida are rare: silver buckthorn (*S. alachuense*), buckthorn (*S. lycioides*), and Thorne's buckthorn (*S. thornei*). Silver buckthorn occurs in the northern and central peninsula and has silvery hairs on the leaves. Buckthorn occurs in the north-central part of the peninsula, west through the panhandle, and is usually single-stemmed, has larger leaves, and is overall a larger plant than Everglades bully. Thorne's buckthorn occurs in the central and western panhandle and has leaves that are more coarsely reticulate-veined.

Habitat: Everglades bully occurs in pine rocklands, marl prairies, and edges of tropical rockland hardwood hammocks (Corogin and Judd 2014, Gann 2015).

Best Survey Season: Flowers April-May and fruits June-July.

Range-wide Distribution: Everglades bully occurs only in South Florida in Monroe, Miami-Dade, and Collier counties.

Conservation Status: This is an endemic subspecies to South Florida occurring in sensitive and highly fragmented pine rocklands that may suffer from threats of fire exclusion and invasive species, though nearly all populations are protected on managed lands.

Protection and Management: Gann (2015) recommends a five-year interval monitoring program and investigation into the species' adaptability to different fire regimes, susceptibility to hydrological changes, pollination ecology, and recruitment rates.

References: Corogin and Judd 2014, Weakley 2020.