

BLODGETT'S NIGHTSHADE

Solanum donianum Walp.

Synonyms: none

Family: Solanaceae (nightshade)

FNAI Ranks: G3G5/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened

Wetland Status: US-FAC*+ FL-FAC



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Field Description: A large, shrubby, perennial herb that may reach 4-6 feet high. Spreads by underground rhizomes to form patches. Leaves are alternate and covered with soft hairs, mostly on the undersides. Flowers are white with five corolla lobes that are often reflexed to display conspicuous orange-yellow stamens. Fruit is a striking red, globose berry.

Similar Species: There are a number of shrubby *Solanum* species that occur in Florida. Of these, *Solanum bahamense* is the closest botanically, however its flowers are in a racemiform cyme, instead of being in a simple or compound cyme like *S. donianum*.

Related Rare Species: There are a number of shrubby *Solanum* species that occur in Florida. Of these, *Solanum bahamense* is the closest botanically, however its flowers are in a racemiform cyme, instead of being in a simple or compound cyme

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Solanum donianum

like *S. donianum*.

Habitat: Marshes and hammock edges.

Best Survey Season: All year.

Range-wide Distribution: South Florida, the West Indies, Mexico, and Central America.

Conservation Status: Listed state-threatened, this species is vouchered from 4 counties in South Florida.

Protection and Management: Special attention should be made to prevent adversely impacting surrounding natural area.

References: Wunderlin and Hansen 2011