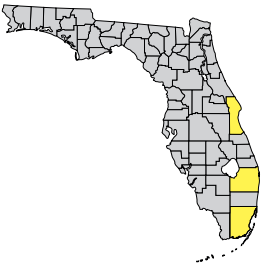
BISCAYNE PRICKLY-ASH

Zanthoxylum coriaceum A. Rich.
Synonym: *Fagara coriacea* (A.Rich.) Krug & Urb.
Family: Rutaceae (citrus)
FNAI Ranks: G3G4/S1
Legal Status: US–none FL–Endangered
Wetland Status: US–UPL FL–UPL



Gil Nelson

Field Description (photo and drawing, left): Shrub or small tree to 20 feet tall, young trees armed with spines on trunk and branches, older trees with corky knobs on the trunk. **Leaves** to 8 inches long, alternate, aromatic, compound with 2 - 7 pairs of leaflets and no terminal leaflet. **Leaflets** 1 - 2 inches long, oblong or oval, rounded or notched at the tips, dark green and shiny above, pale green and prickly beneath, with entire margins. **Female and male flowers** on separate trees, in showy clusters at the ends of twigs; **flowers** small, yellow-white to green, with 3 sepals, petals, and stamens. **Fruit** round, rough, brown with a single black seed.

Similar Species: Wild lime (*Zanthoxylum fagara*) has wings between its small, toothed leaflets. Biscayne prickly-ash is distinguished from other tree species in south FL with paired leaflets by its thorny branches, knobby trunk, and its prickly and aromatic leaves.

Related Rare Species (drawing, lower right): Yellow-wood (*Zanthoxylum flavum*), state-endangered, is a small tree without thorns; leaves have 2 - 3 pairs of gland-dotted leaflets and a terminal leaflet; flower parts in 4s or 5s.

Biscayne prickly-ash *Zanthoxylum coriaceum*

Habitat: Tropical coastal hammocks.

Best Survey Season: Both species flower all year.

Range-wide Distribution: Biscayne prickly-ash: Dade and Broward counties, FL (probably extirpated from Palm Beach County); West Indies.
Yellow-wood: Monroe County Keys, FL; West Indies.

Conservation Status: Biscayne prickly-ash is found in 3 conservation areas, yellow-wood in 2.

Protection & Management: Limit clearing and development of coastal and tropical hammocks. Eradicate exotic pest plants. Support and continue efforts to re-introduce plants in conservation areas.

References: Coile 2000, Correll and Correll 1982, IRC 1999, Nelson 1996, Stevenson 1969, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.