

CALOPHYLLUM ANTILLANUM BRITT.

Clusiaceae (Guttiferae)/Pitch-Apple Family

Common Names: Beauty leaf, Santa-maria

Synonymy: *Calophyllum brasiliense* Camb. var. *antillanum* (Britt.) Standl., *C. calaba* Jacq., *non* L., *C. jacquinii* Fawc. & Rendle

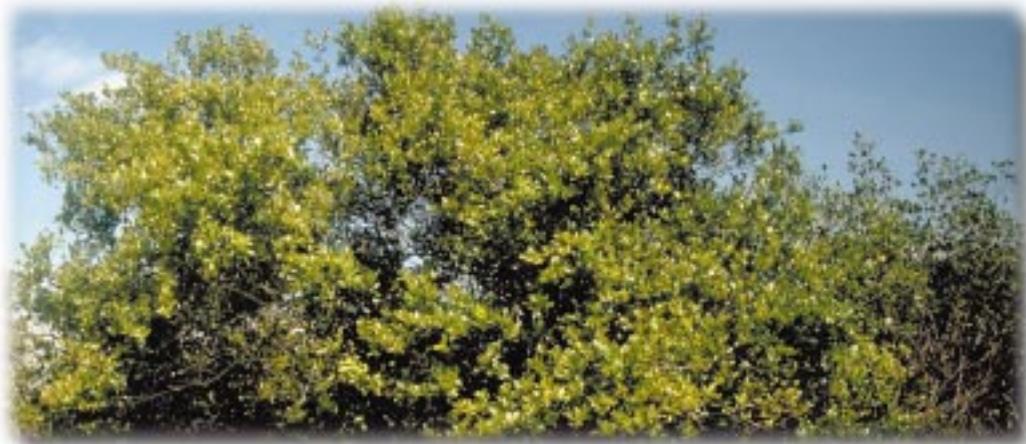
Origin: Caribbean, Cuba to Grenada

Botanical Description: Straight-trunked tree typically 12 m (40 ft) tall. Young stems green, 4-angled, minutely hairy, becoming gray with age. Leaves opposite, simple, petioled, elliptic, 10-15 cm (4-6 in) long; blades very shiny, with numerous parallel veins at right angles to midvein; margins entire; blade tips rounded to minutely notched. Flowers small, in few-flowered racemes at leaf axils, white, fragrant, with many yellow stamens. Fruit a 1-seeded, hard-shelled drupe, brown, globose, about 2.5 cm (1 in) wide.

NOTE: May be confused with mast-wood, *C. inophyllum* L., the Asian exotic also cultivated in south Florida and reported as naturalized (Wunderlin *et al.* 1996), but its trees often taller, its leaves larger, to 20 cm (8 in) long and 10 cm (4 in) wide, not as shiny; its flower clusters larger, showier; and its fruits to 4 cm (1.5 in) wide.

Ecological Significance: Noted as introduced in southern Florida in 1964 (Little and Wadsworth 1964). Widely planted in southern Florida as a landscape subject. Invades mangrove forests and other coastal areas (M. McMahon, Biological and Environmental Consulting, and R. Hammer, Miami-Dade County Parks Department, 1996 personal communications). Dense stands of seedlings and saplings observed along the fringes of coastal mangrove and buttonwood forests and occasionally in inland hardwood forests as well. Abundant in and around Matheson Hammock Park in south Dade County, and observed in other mangrove areas in Dade County, where it is a target of eradication by Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation Department. Also reported from parks in Broward County (EPPC 1996). Listed as an invasive species in Hawaii (Wester 1992).

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In Matheson Hammock, Miami-Dade County

Distribution: Locally naturalized in coastal regions of Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin counties (R. Hammer, Miami-Dade County Parks Department, and D. F. Austin, Florida Atlantic University, personal observations). Also naturalized in Bermuda (Little and Wadsworth 1964).

Life History: Limited to southernmost Florida where minimum temperatures are 4.4-1.7°C (40-35°F) (Broschat and Meerow 1991). Can withstand inundation and is resistant to brackish conditions (Stresau 1986). Flowers in summer. Fruits prolifically in southern Florida, and is spread by seed (R. Hammer, Miami-Dade County Parks Department, 1996 personal communication). Spontaneous seed germination common beneath mature landscape trees. Fruits inedible for humans, those of related *C. inophyllum* known to be poisonous (Morton 1971b).

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Leaf with numerous lateral veins

DFA



Flowers