

***Ardisia elliptica***

shoebuttan ardisia



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**Appearance:** Evergreen, glabrous shrub or small tree to 5 m (17 ft) tall, with smooth stems and new foliage often reddish.

**Leaves:** Alternate, to 20 cm (8 in) long, oblong to oval, fleshy, leathery, gland-dotted below, with margins entire.

**Flowers:** Axillary clusters, star shaped, 13 mm (0.5 in) wide, with mauve-colored petals.

**Fruit:** Rounded drupe, 6 mm (< 1 in) wide, red turning to black when ripe, with white juicy flesh.

**Ecological threat:**

Abundant in hammocks, old fields, disturbed wetlands, and tree islands in marshes, forming dense single-species stands in forest understories and crowding out native plants. Also invading cypress and mangrove areas along the New River in Broward County. FLEPPC Category I



**Distribution:** SW, SE

**Field Notations**

ARDIELLI/AREL4

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>