

BAY CEDAR

Suriana maritima

- The Bay Cedar is a native tree that is endemic to south Florida, the Caribbean, Central America, and the Bahamas.
- It is on the endangered plants' list.
- It is found growing in thickets, sand dunes, and rocky shores, usually just back of the high tide line.
- This 5-20-foot-tall plant has a sturdy, branched trunk that has beautiful, dark brown, rough, flaky bark; the wood of this tree is very hard and heavy. Branches arch gracefully and hold the evergreen leaves on short, upturned twigs. The tiny, gray-green leaves are fleshy and minutely downy.
- Yellow, cup-shaped flowers may occur singly or in clusters that are inconspicuously set among the leaves. These small flowers occur consistently throughout the year.
- The Bay Cedar serves as host for two butterflies: the Martial scrub-hairstreak and the Mallow scrub-hairstreak. It also provides nectar for many other butterflies.

