

UPLAND PLANT COMMUNITY: TROPICAL HAMMOCK

A. DESCRIPTION:

A community confined to coastal zones with high plant diversity. It contains over 35 species of trees and over 65 species of shrubs which form a dense canopy adapted to harsh environment of wind, drought, and salt spray.

B. FUNCTION:

✓ WILDLIFE HABITAT
✓ BIOTIC DIVERSITY
✓ STABILIZATION
✓ ENERGY CONSERVATION

✓ UNIQUE FEATURE
✓ LANDSCAPE
✓ RECREATION
✓ AESTHETICS

✓ FLOOD PROTECTION
WATER QUALITY
WATER QUANTITY
✓ CLIMATE MODIFIER

C. SPECIAL CONCERNS:

✓ ENDANGERED FLORA
✓ ENDANGERED FAUNA
✓ SYSTEM DESTRUCTION

✓ LIMITED RESOURCE
REGIONAL RESOURCE
✓ UNIQUE FEATURE

JURISDICTIONAL
SEASONAL FLOOD

D. COMMENTS:

Very sensitive to fire. Mature stands very efficient at recycling nutrients.

E. TYPICAL DOMINANT PLANTS:

TREES (UPPER STORY)

1. Jamaica dogwood (*Piscidia piscipula*)
2. Strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*)
3. Sea grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*)
4. Gumbo limbo (*Bursera simaruba*)
5. Cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*)

SHRUBS (MIDDLE STORY)

1. Stoppers (*Eugenia spp*)
2. Myrsine (*Myrsine guianensis*)
3. Marlberry (*Ardisia escalloniodes*)
4. Black olive (*Forestiera segregata*)
5. Cat's claw (*Pithecolobium unguis-cat*)

GROUND COVER (UNDER STORY)

1. Switchgrass (*Panicum vargatum*)
2. Wild coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*)
3. Sour paspalum (*Paspalum conjugatum*)
4. Purple nutsedge (*Cyperus rotundus*)
5. Peppervine (*Ampelopsis arborea*)