

# CAYMAN ISLANDS WILD TREES & SHRUBS post-**IVAN**

Family: SIMARUBACEAE

Birch, Red Birch, Gumbo Limbo, Turpentine Tree, Tourist Tree

March 2005

*Bursera simaruba*

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Category 5 **HURRICANE IVAN** hit Grand Cayman, 11 - 12 Sept. 2004. Birch branches snapped off, but mostly the main trunk remained standing. Six months later: depressions in the trunk of birch trees, some appearing dead, some putting out new leaves. (Above right: new leaves of leaning Logwood.)



Hole in the centre of the depressions. The neatly-cut 'trap-doors' can be seen lying on the ground. Left: Fresh termite trails. Right: Fungi growing on fallen trunk.



The depressions are made by the larvae of Beetles, Order: Coleoptera, Family: CERAMBYCIDAE - Long-Horned beetles (so called because their antennae are at least half as long as body, often longer).

The larvae are eaten by birds such as

Grand Cayman's endemic race of Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus gundlachi*