

CAYMAN ISLANDS WILD TREES & SHRUBS

The IRONWOODS

Ironwood Family: OLEACEAE

Chionanthus cayamensis

is an endemic tree - it grows only in the Cayman Islands
and is on the world list of threatened trees.



The wood is very strong and termite resistant. It was traditionally used for the foundation posts of houses.



Leaves in exactly Opposite pairs

Ironwood Trees

Ironwood *Chionanthus caymanensis*

Bastard or Yellow Ironwood *Exostema caribaeum*

Black Ironwood, Bitter Plum *Picrodendron baccatum*

Little-Leaf or Narrow-leaf Ironwood *Gymnanthes lucida*

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Little-leaf Ironwood,
Narrow-leaf Ironwood, Crab Bush

Gymnanthes lucida

synonym *Ateramnus lucidus*

Family: EUPHORBIACEAE

Leaves: Alternate, simple.

Small tree of rocky thickets & woodlands
West Indies, Florida & Central America

Bastard Ironwood or Yellow Ironwood

Exostema caribaeum Family: RUBIACEAE

Leaves: Opposite, simple.

Small tree of harsh, rocky woodlands - West Indies,
Florida, Mexico and Central America

Black Ironwood, Bitter Plum,
Hard Plum, Jamaica Walnut, Dog Berry

Picrodendron baccatum

Family: EUPHORBIACEAE

Leaves: Alternate, Compound with
3 leaflets. Male & Female flowers grow on
different trees. Cayman Islands, Bahamas,
Cuba, Jamaica & Hispaniola.

