

## MYRICACEAE – BAYBERRY OR WAX MYRTLE FAMILY

**Plant:** shrubs and trees

**Stem:**

**Leaves:** deciduous or evergreen, mostly simple or pinnate, alternate, often with resinous dots or ducts; with stipules or not

**Root:**

**Flowers:** perfect or imperfect (dioecious or monoecious), usually in catkin-like structures; sepals and petals absent, flower subtended by a bract; 2 to many stamens; ovary superior or inferior

**Fruit:** nut or drupe-like

**Other:** mostly tropical, family large; Dicotyledons Group

**Genera:** 2-4+ genera

## MYRICACEAE – BAYBERRY FAMILY

Sweet Fern; *Comptonia peregrina* (L.) Coult.

Southern Bayberry [Wax Myrtle]; *Morella cerifera* (L.) Small

# Sweet Fern

*Comptonia peregrina* (L.) Coult.

Myricaceae (Bayberry Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: shrub; flowers greenish; leaves pinnatifid, with yellow resinous dots, stipules present; often forming patches in infertile sandy soils; several varieties

[V Max Brown, 2006]



# Southern Bayberry

## [Wax Myrtle]



*Morella cerifera* (L.) Small  
Myricaceae (Bayberry Family)  
Tybee Island, Georgia  
Notes: woody evergreen shrub; leaves narrow, leathery, edges often curled under, outer portion may be toothed, microscopic resin dots on both sides, glabrous; fruit are small (1/8 in) wax-covered nutlets; twigs hairy or not; buds yellowish; wet and sandy soils; spring to early summer  
[V Max Brown, 2006]

