**Cupaniopsis anacardioides** (A. Rich.) Redkf.

**Common Name:** Carrotwood, tuckeroo tree  
**Synonymy:** *Cupania anacardioides* A. Rich  
**Origin:** Australia  
**Botanical Description:** Slender evergreen tree, usually single truncked, to 10 m (33 ft) tall, with dark gray outer bark and often orange inner bark (hence the common name). Leaves alternate, once compound (usually even-pinnate), with petioles swollen at the base; 4-12 leaflets, stalked, oblong, leathery, shiny yellowish green, to 20 cm (8 in) long and 7.5 cm (3 in) wide, with margins entire and tips rounded or slightly indented. Flowers numerous, white to greenish yellow, up to 0.8 cm (0.4 in) wide, in branched clusters to 35 cm (14 in) long, at leaf axils; 5 petals; 6-8 stamens. Fruit a short-stalked, woody capsule, to 2.2 cm (0.9 in) across, with 3 distinctly ridged segments, yellow orange when ripe, drying to brown and splitting open to expose 3 shiny, oval, black seeds covered by a yellow red crust (aril).  
**Ecological Significance:** Introduced for landscaping in the 1960s, quickly becoming popular in southern Florida for its fast growth, ease of propagation, and adaptability to coastal conditions (Lockhart et al. 1997). Even earliest plantings noted as freely seeding (Menniger 1964). By 1990, seedlings found established on both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of Florida (Oliver 1992). Invades spoil islands, beach dunes, marshes, tropical hammocks, pinelands, mangrove and cypress swamps, scrub habitats, and coastal strands (Lockhart et al. 1997). Now found in natural areas of 14 coastal counties in central and south Florida, with reproducing wild populations established already in Brevard, Martin, and Sarasota counties (Lockhart et al. 1997). Appears able to compete well even with other aggressive nonnative plants such as Brazilian pepper (Lockhart et al. 1997).  
**Distribution:** Occurs naturally along the north and east coasts of Australia on rocky beaches, sand dunes, and in hilly, riverine, and monsoon forests (Reynolds 1985). Cultivated in various subtropical areas, including California (Oliver 1992). In Florida, documented as invading scrub, sandhill, maritime hammocks, coastal berms, beach dunes, hardwood hammocks, mesic flatwoods, strand swamps, and ruderal communities. Documented by herbarium specimens in 10 coastal counties from Pinellas and Volusia counties south to Lee and Miami-Dade counties (Wunderlin and Hansen 2004). Reported in natural areas in Brevard, Indian River, Manatee, Broward, and Collier counties (FLEPPC 2005).  
**Life History:** Tolerant of salt, full sun, poor soils, poor drainage, and dry areas (Oliver 1992). Older trees able to withstand cold to about -6°C (22°F) (Stresau 1986). Flowers in Florida in late winter/early spring (January and February), with fruits maturing in April and May (Lockhart et al. 1997). Seeds dispersed by birds, including mockingbirds and fish-eating crows (Austin 1996a).