DESIRABLE SEA-BEANS OF FLORIDA

and the Probability of Finding Them

Brown Hamburger
1 in 2
Mucuna sloanei
size = ½" – 1"

Red Hamburger
1 in 2
Mucuna urens
size = ¾" – 1¼"

Sea Heart
1 in 3
Entada gigas
size = 1" – 2¾"

Gray Nickerbean
1 in 6
Caesalpinia bonduc
size = ½" – ¾"

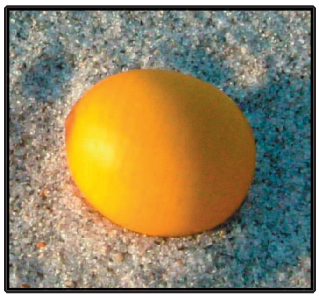
Sea Purse
1 in 28
Dioclea reflexa
size = ¾" – 1¼"

Mary's Bean
1 in 292
Merremia discoidesperma
size = ¾" – 1"

Thick Banded Mucuna
1 in 707
Mucuna fawcettii
size = 1" – 1½"

Brown Nickerbean
1 in 1,414
Caesalpinia major
size = ½" – ¾"

Oxyrhynchus
1 in 2,112
Oxyrhynchus trinervius
size = ½"



Yellow Nickerbean
1 in 16,964
Caesalpinia sp.
size = ½" – ¾"

Cathie's Bean
1 in 16,964
Canavalia nitida
size = ½" – ¾"

Unknown Species
1 in 16,964
Dioclea sp.
size = 1½"

Sea-beans are carried to the beaches of Florida on the currents of the ocean. The hard coated, attractive sea-beans grow on large vines called lianas. These lianas grow deep in the rainforest of the Tropics and produce attractive flowers and seedpods from six inches to six feet long. Some of the seeds make their way into rivers by falling directly into the water or are carried off by floodwaters during the rainy season. The seeds may strand on native beaches at the mouths of these rivers, while others begin a long circumnavigation of the North Atlantic gyre – the sea heart may drift for up to thirty years. Heavy onshore winds out of the east cause large mats of sargassum grass to wash ashore. It is here in the wrack line (accumulation of seagrass, driftweed and flotsam) that you can find stranded sea-beans. If you find one, cherish it, for it has made a long journey to arrive on these distant shores.

Please refer to *Sea-Beans from the Tropics* by Perry and Dennis or visit www.seabean.com for more detailed information about sea-beans

The numbers provided in this document are based on the records of William B. Blazek from Palm Beach County, who has collected and documented over 34,000 sea-beans since 1998. There are 206 species of sea-beans (also known as drift disseminules) that strand upon the beaches of Florida. Most drift seeds have a fibrous texture and are not desirable to collectors. These less attractive drift seeds originate from plants, palms and mangroves. It is the attractive hard shelled sea-beans from the family *Fabaceae* that grow on lianas, which are referred to in this guide. The comparison records listed above for each species (i.e. 1 in 292) refer only to these attractive species. If we were to compare the likelihood of encountering a specific seed with all 34,000 records representing 206 species, then the probability of encountering one would be significantly lower.

1 in 292 indicates that 1 seed was found for every 292 of the desirable sea-beans referenced on this guide.