

A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE AREA  
KNOWN AS THE COLLIER-CORAL RIDGE  
TRACT, SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

An Unpublished Manuscript

By John G. Beriault

1973

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## PREFACE

The urgency of imparting whatever information I can offer to the responsible agencies on the Collier-Coral Ridge Tract impells me to submit this brief preliminary report before I have completed a more adequate survey of the archeological and other noteworthy features of the area in question. My credentials for doing this work are slight. I admit to being an amateur with many field observations, but with limited ability to give these experiences a context useful to experts. Nevertheless, I consider this admission as a qualification rather than an apology for the remarks and information which follows. I have concentrated most of my efforts to date on a generalized survey of the sandhill areas which lie mostly along the eastern reaches of the 2,100-acre Collier-Coral Ridge Tract and which constitute perhaps a sixth of its total area.

It is my personal feeling, based on conversations with people involved in the study of the region that a disproportionate amount of attention is being directed toward the admittedly-valuable coastal mangrove area and hardwood swamp - to the detriment of considerations toward preserving a reasonable portion of the equally-unique and rapidly disappearing coastal sandhill chain.

I advocate preservation of some of the more noteworthy geologic areas and archeological sites in a series of small parks. These would involve relatively small outlays in terms