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A CENSUS AND EVALUATION OF INVITED EXOTIC PLANTS IN OWENSTOWN,
ANDROS ISLAND, BAHAMAS—25 YEARS AFTER EVACUATION

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In 1973 Owens Illinois Co., the largest of the lumber firms clear cutting Bahamian Pine for paper pulp on Andros Island, Bahamas, decided to remove its operations from the island. In doing so, Owenstown, a community of nearly 1000 loggers and support people, was completely evacuated, with the prefabricated houses and other buildings relocated elsewhere. Many residents had planted flower and vegetable gardens around the community. These were left behind. In spite of not being assisted by humans, many taxa have been quite successful and through time have escaped their original beds to flourish among the endemic flora. No records can be traced of the original Owenstown tract. A map has been made of the former community based on extensive interviews with former citizens and tracing remaining foundations and infrastructures. A reference collection of plants believed to be among the invited exotics has been made through tow field seasons; 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and are being identified. Locations and, where applicable, extent of colonization has been placed on the base map. Results will be monitored for several years noting "progress" of the exotic at the expense of the endemic flora.