To Be Inserted as an Additional Taxa Under *Hedera helix*:

*Hydrocotyle bonariensis* P. Commerson *ex* J. de Lamarck  **Beach Pennywort**

C Also known as Dollar-Weed or Sombrerillo; Beach Pennywort is a low growing mostly evergreen herbaceous perennial with round to reniform peltate 2 to 4 diameter leaves; leaves are said to resemble a green silver dollar and are thick and rubbery in texture with a lustrous green coloration; the veins radiate like spokes on a wheel from the petiole and the margins are lightly undulate and scalloped or shallowly toothed; this mat-forming 4 to 10 (20) tall groundcover forms a solid canopy of leaves which arise from thin stoloniferous stems that root at the nodes to spread aggressively.

C The inflorescences are noticeable, but not showy, many-branched 1 to 3 diameter umbels of aesthetically inconsequential tiny five-petaled white to greenish yellow flowers; found with the fruit from spring to fall; botanically interesting, but tending to detract from the handsome foliage.

C Beach Pennywort is actually a member of the family *Apiaceae*, closely allied botanically to the *Araliaceae* which contains the genus *Hedera*; like *Hedera spp.*, Beach Pennywort may serve as a groundcover substitute for *Hedera spp.* in saline environments such as coastal landscapes; *Hydrocotyle bonariensis* is tolerant of direct salt spray from the ocean and can be found on the dunes; it is particularly prevalent behind the first dunes in sandy depressions where regular moisture is available; full sun to part shade is suitable and plants tolerate less than perfect drainage; hardiness has not been fully determined, but likely encompasses USDA zones 8(7) through 11 based on the species native distribution.

C This Southeastern US and Texas native deserves consideration as a tough, but aggressive, groundcover for coastal landscapes or other saline environments; it is a good soil stabilizer.

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