

## LOW PEPEROMIA

*Peperomia humilis* A. Dietr.

**Synonyms:** *Micropiper humilis* (A. Dietr.) Small

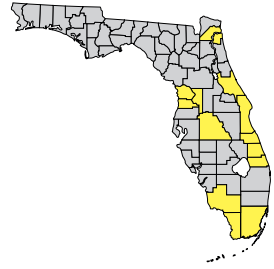
*Macropiper leptostachyon* (Nuttall) Small

**Family:** Piperaceae (pepper)

**FNAI Ranks:** G5/S2

**Legal Status:** US—none FL—Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US—UPL FL—UPL



Anthony Miller

Gil Nelson

**Field Description:** Perennial **herb** 4 - 10 inches tall, erect, sometimes forming dense colonies on the ground or rarely on tree trunks and branches. **Stems** hairy, sometimes branched, with clear sap. **Leaves** 0.5 - 2.5 inches long, usually wider above the middle, tip pointed or blunt, base wedge-shaped, with 3 veins branching from the base, hairy, succulent, opposite or whorled. **Leaf stalk** to 0.5 inches long. **Flowers and fruits** in thin spikes, 1 - 5.5 inches long; **flowers** tiny, inconspicuous, consisting of a round bract, 2 stamens, and an ovary that matures into a tiny round, warty fruit.

**Similar Species:** This is the only predominantly ground-dwelling peperomia and the only one with opposite leaves and hairy stems. Two exotic species of peperomia (*Peperomia amplexicaulis* and *Peperomia pellucida*) are also found in hammocks in south or central Florida.

**Related Rare Species:** See Florida peperomia (*P. obtusifolia*) in this guide.

# Low peperomia

# *Peperomia humilis*

**Habitat:** Shell mounds and limestone outcrops in mesic hammocks, coastal berms, cypress swamps. Rarely on tree trunks, branches, or rotting logs.

**Best Survey Season:** All year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** FL, Jamaica.

**Conservation Status:** Low peperomia is known from about 10 conservation areas.

**Protection & Management:** Avoid logging, frequent hot fires, grazing and other groundcover disturbance in mesic hammocks. Avoid disturbance of shell mounds. Eradicate exotic pest plants, including non-native peperomias.

**References:** Boufford 1982, Coile 2000, FNA 1997, IRC 1999, Small 1931b, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

