

## MICCOSUKEE GOOSEBERRY

*Ribes echinellum* (Coville) Rehder

**Synonym:** *Grossularia echinella* Coville

**Family:** Grossulariaceae (gooseberry)

**FNAI Ranks:** G1/S1

**Legal Status:** US–Endangered FL–Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US–FAC FL–UPL



Gil Nelson

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John Palis

**Field Description:** Low, spiny **shrub** to 3.5 feet tall, forming small thickets.

**Stems** with shredding bark, rooting at the tips where they touch the soil.

**Leaves** less than 1 inch long, simple, alternate, 3-lobed with each lobe toothed, veins spread outward from the top of the leaf stalk into the lobes; deciduous in summer, with new leaves appearing in fall and overwintering.

Pale green **flowers**, hanging from long stalks and usually solitary, with 5 small **petals** and 5 conspicuous, spreading **sepals**; **stamens** dangle well below the petals and sepals. The round, glandular-hairy **floral tube** matures into a very spiny **berry**, less than 1 inch wide.

**Similar Species:** Immature parsley haw (*Crataegus marshallii*) shrubs have been mistaken for Miccosukee gooseberry. Thorns of parsley haw are single; gooseberry thorns are often forked. Parsley haw is deciduous in the winter, and the leaf veins spread out from along a central midvein.

## Miccosukee gooseberry

## *Ribes echinellum*

**Habitat:** Mixed hardwood or beech-magnolia forests on slopes and in bottomlands.

**Best Survey Season:** Flowers in March, fruit mature in April and May. Leaves (except during summer), spines, and stems are distinctive all year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Known only from Jefferson County, FL (type locality) and McCormick County, SC.

**Conservation Status:** All known sites in FL are on private lands; one population is protected by conservation easement.

**Protection & Management:** Avoid logging and changes to hydrology. Monitor and control invasive species such as Chines privet and Japanese honeysuckle.

**References:** Coile 2000, Coville 1924, Federal Register 1984, Federal Register 1985, Godfrey 1988, Harper 1925, Kral 1983, Reed and Cruz 1997, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

