

## MEADOW JOINTVETCH

*Aeschynomene pratensis* Small

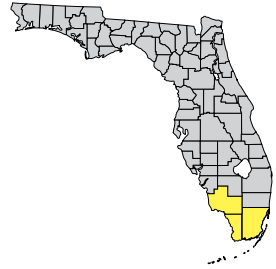
**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Fabaceae (pea)

**FNAI Ranks:** G5T2/S2

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

**Wetland Status:** US—OBL FL—OBL



Gary Knight

Gary Knight

**Field Description:** Perennial **herb**, with robust, erect stems to 6 feet tall. **Leaves** compound with 20 - 26 leaflets; **leaflets** less than 0.5 inch long, entire, oblong, with a single conspicuous midvein; leaflets not overlapping; **leaf stalk** usually 1 - 3 inches long. **Flowers**, yellow-orange, typically pea-like with a large, notched banner petal. **Fruit** a pod, 0.8 - 2 inches long, with a slender stalk about 0.5 inch long and 2 - 8 segments, distinctly constricted between the segments.

**Similar Species:** Indian jointvetch (*Aeschynomene indica*), an exotic weedy species found in wetlands and disturbed areas, also has 1 conspicuous midvein per leaflet, but its pods are not constricted between the seeds. Shy-leaf (*Aeschynomene americana*) has 2 - 4 prominent veins on the leaflets.

**Related Rare Species:** Several members of the pea family are rare in S FL. See few-flowered nickerbean (*Caesalpinia pauciflora*), Small's milkpea (*Galactia smallii*), Swartz's snoutbean (*Rhynchosia swartzii*), and crenulate lead-plant (*Amorpha herbacea* var. *crenulata*) in this guide.

# Meadow joint-vetch

# *Aeschynomene pratensis*

**Habitat:** Marl prairie, cypress domes, swales.

**Best Survey Season:** Flowers and fruits all year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to S FL.

**Conservation Status:** Only 11 populations have been documented, 3 on conservation areas.

**Protection & Management:** Limit development and drainage of wetlands. Restore and maintain natural hydrology in S FL wetlands. Eradicate exotic pest plants.

**References:** Coile 2000, IRC 1999, Isely 1990, Small 1933, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

