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

**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 **sepal**s; **stamen**s 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.