MIAMI INDIGO-BUSH
Amorpha crenulata Rydb.
Synonyms: *Amorpha herbacea* Walt. var. *crenulata* (Rydb.) Isely
Family: Fabaceae (pea)
FNAI Ranks: G4T1/S1
Legal Status: US-Endangered; FL-Endangered

Leaflet margin crenulate with small rounded projections along the leaf margin. Photo © Keith Bradley.

Field Description: Deciduous **shrub** to about 1.5 m tall with reddish-purple branches. **Leaves** alternate, with 25 - 33 opposite leaflets; **leaflets** 1 - 4 cm long, alternate, upper surface gray-green, lower surface paler and dotted with glands; margins scalloped; leaflets with glandular bristle-tips. **Flower spike** 15 - 20 cm long; **flowers** with one white or lavender petal; **calyx** glandular. **Fruit** a flattened pod, usually held erect, less than 1.2 cm long. Plants are smooth and hairless throughout.

Similar Species: Clusterspike false indigo (*Amorpha herbacea* var. *herbacea*) and Florida indigo-bush (*Amorpha herbacea* var. *floridana*) are hairy and have entire or only slightly scalloped leaflets. False indigobush (*Amorpha fruticosa*) is common throughout FL and has 9 - 31 leaflets and pink-purple flowers with protruding orange anthers.

Related Rare Species: There are no other closely related rare species in Florida.

Habitat: Pine rocklands and the ecotone between marl prairie and pine rocklands, often occurring with slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), wax myrtle (*Morella cerifera*), and poisonwood (*Metopium toxiferum*).

Best Survey Season: Spring-summer; leaves are distinctive spring-fall.

Range-wide Distribution: This species is endemic to Miami-Dade County, FL, occurring in low pine rocklands and adjacent sandy and marl prairies.

Conservation Status: About 98% of this species' pine rockland habitat has been lost to development. Seven populations are known to be extant, however only two of these are naturally occurring, the rest have been introduced as conservation translocations, with differing degrees of success. Nearly all populations are on the decline, largely due to lack of fire. Invasions from non-native plant species such as Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) and Natal grass (*Melinis repens*) can also be a threat. In the near future, soil salinization from sea-level rise will threaten it's low-lying habitat.

Protection and Management: Prescribed fire needs to be applied regularly, approximately every 3 - 7 years to maintain the pine rockland habitat. Invasive plant species in areas with crenulate lead-plant need to be carefully removed and controlled, particularly Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) and Natal grass (*Melinis repens)*. As both natural and introduced populations decline, further augmentations with ex situ grown material need to be considered to allow the populations to persist.

References: Coile 2000, IRC 1999, Isely 1986b, Isely 1990, Linares & Koptur 2010, Nelson 1996, USFWS 1998, USFWS 2007, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a, Weakley, A. S. and the Southeastern Flora Team 2024.

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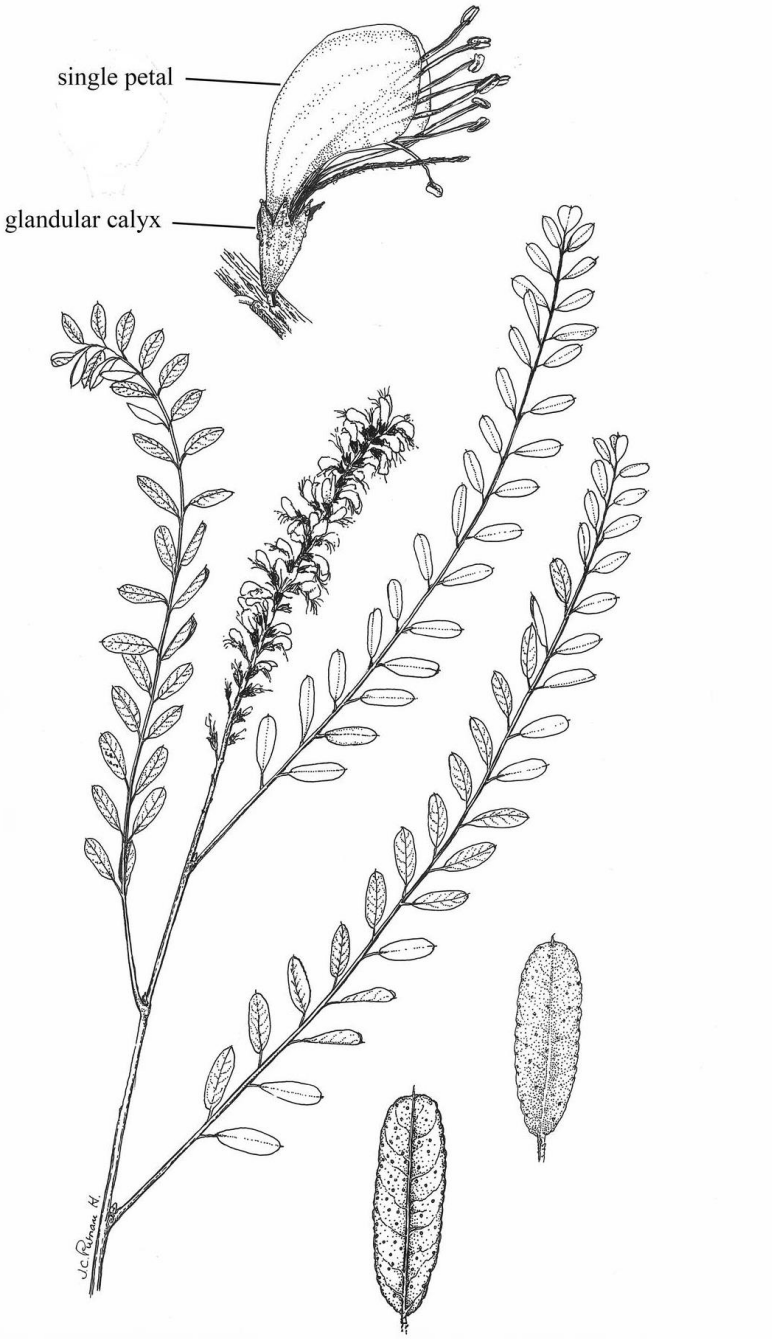

scalloped, gland-dotted leaflets with bristle tips