FEWFLOWER HOLDBACK
*Caesalpinia pauciflora* (Griseb.) C. Wright

**Synonyms:** *Libidibia pauciflora* Griseb.  
*Poinciana pauciflora* (Griseb.) Small

**Family:** Fabaceae (pea)

**FNAI Ranks:** G3?/S1

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

**Wetland Status:** US–none  FL–UPL

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**Field Description:** Spiny shrub, scrambling or erect, to 6 feet tall. Leaves twice-compound, with 3 - 5 pairs of compound leaflets, each of these with 4 - 7 pairs of sub-leaflets that are oval with notched tips. Flowers with 5 yellow, nearly equal petals less than 0.4 inch long; stamens 10, less than 0.6 inch long, only slightly extended beyond petals. Fruit a flattened, elongated legume without spines.

**Similar Species:** Dwarf poinciana (*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*), an exotic species, has larger flowers and longer stamens (to 2 inches long) extending far beyond the bright yellow petals, which often turn orange or red with age.

**Related Rare Species:** Several pea family species are rare in the Keys; included in this guide are Big Pine partridge pea (*Chamaecrista lineata* var. *keyensis*) and Everglades pencil flower (*Stylosanthes calcicola*).
**Fewflower holdback**  
*Caesalpinia pauciflora*

**Habitat:** Pine rocklands.

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

**Range-wide Distribution:** Monroe County Keys, FL; West Indies.

**Conservation Status:** Known from only a few locations in the Lower Keys, only one in a conservation area.

**Protection & Management:** Burn pine rocklands in the Keys every 7 - 10 years. Purchase and protect remaining fragments of rocklands.