CRUISE'S GOLDENASTER
Chrysopsis cruiseana Dress
Synonyms: *Chrysopsis gossypina* (Michx.) Ell. ssp. *cruiseana* (Dress) Semple
Family: Asteraceae (composite)
FNAI Ranks: G5T2/S2
Legal Status: US-none; FL-none

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Field Description: Perennial **herb** with basal rosettes and several sprawling flowering **stems**, to 0.5 m long, that spread out from the rosette and curve upwards as the plants age. **Rosette leaves** to 6.1 cm long, oval, white-woolly with narrowed, purple bases; **stem leaves** shorter than rosette leaves, green, lacking leafstalks, nearly hairless but with glandular dots. **Flower heads** about 2.5 cm wide, in flat-topped clusters of 5 - 15 heads at ends of stems; stalks supporting heads are smooth and hairless; **bracts** of the flower heads lack hairs and glands. Both **ray** and **disk flowers** are yellow.

Similar Species: Cruise's goldenaster is distinguished from other goldenasters in the Florida Panhandle by its unbranched, sprawling stems; oval, nearly hairless leaves on the flowering stems; hairless, glandless bracts of the flower heads; and by its dune habitat. All goldenasters (*Chrysopsis* spp.) have a double pappus composed of both long, thin bristles and short, coarse scales or bristles that distinguish them from all other composites.

Cruise's goldenaster ***Chrysopsis cruiseana***

Related Rare Species: See Godfrey's goldenaster (*Chrysopsis godfreyi*) and Florida goldenaster (*Chrysopsis floridana*) in this guide.

Habitat: Stable coastal dunes. Also in dune openings and blowouts.

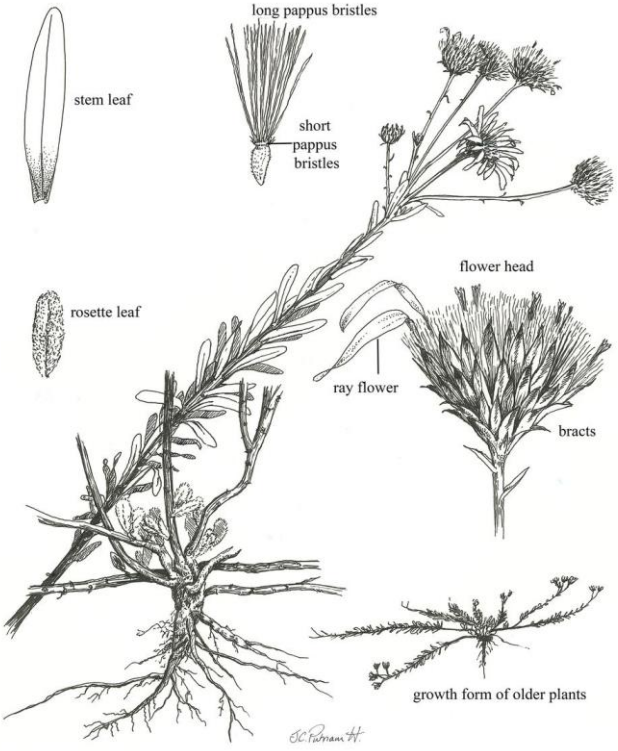
Best Survey Season: Flowers mid-October to mid-November.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to coasts of the western FL Panhandle.

Conservation Status: Cruise's goldenaster is protected on Eglin Air Force Base (Santa Rosa Island) and three state parks.

Protection and Management: Limit development of beaches, and protect coastal habitats. Avoid artificial dune stabilization, and allow dune plants to re-colonize naturally after storms. Limit foot traffic and off-road-vehicle access to dunes.

References: Clewell 1985, Coile 2000, Cronquist 1980, Dress 1954, Semple 1981, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.



Florida Natural Areas Inventory, 2000