

YUCATAN FLYMALLOW

Cienfuegosia yucatanensis Millsp.

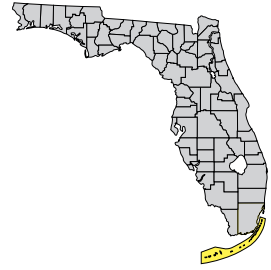
Synonyms: none

Family: Malvaceae (mallow)

FNAI Ranks: G4/S1

Legal Status: US—none FL—Endangered

Wetland Status: US—UPL FL—UPL



Gil Nelson

Field Description: **Shrub** with a short woody stem and erect, non-woody branches to 20 inches tall. **Leaves** 1.5 inches long, alternate, narrow, lance-shaped to oblong, simple, entire (or lowest leaves sometimes 3-lobed), smooth. **Flowers** with 5 yellow petals, no dark spot, opening flat into a pinwheel shape; **calyx** composed of 5 **sepals** with conspicuous lines of black dots; small **bracts** surround the base of the calyx; **pollen** yellow. **Fruit** a capsule. All parts of the plant with tiny black dots.

Similar Species: No other member of the mallow family in Florida has yellow flowers, narrow leaves, and black dots on stems, leaves, and sepals.

Related Rare Species: Mangrove mallow (*Pavonia paludicola*), state-endangered, is a shrub to 9 feet tall with greenish-yellow flowers and heart-shaped leaves; it occurs in salt marshes and mangroves in Collier, Dade, and Monroe counties. Spiny mallow (*Pavonia spinifex*), imperiled in FL, has yellow flowers, spiny fruits, and hairy, oval leaves; it occurs in hammocks in central FL.

Yucatan flymallow

Cienfuegosia yucatanensis

Habitat: Coastal rock barrens, coastal hammocks, salt marshes.

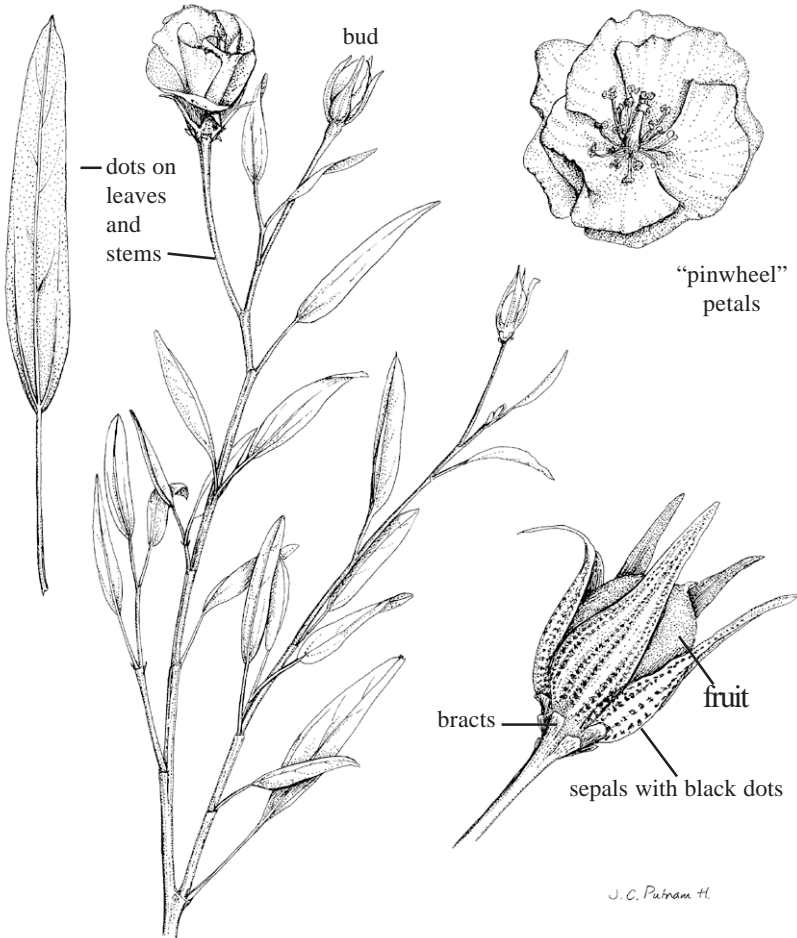
Best Survey Season: Flowers July–November.

Range-wide Distribution: Monroe County Keys, FL; Yucatan, Cuba, Bahamas.

Conservation Status: Yucatan flymallow occurs in three state preserves in the Monroe Keys.

Protection & Management: Eradicate exotic pest plants. Limit development of coastal habitats.

References: Coile 2000, Correll and Correll 1982, Fryxell 1969, Fryxell 1979, IRC 1999, Nelson 1996, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.



J. C. Putnam fl.