

## YUCATAN FLYMALLOW

*Cienfuegosia yucatanensis* Millsp.

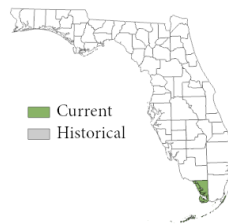
**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Malvaceae (mallow)

**FNAI Ranks:** G4?/S1

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

**Wetland Status:** US-none+ 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

## Yucatan flymallow

*Cienfuegosia yucatanensis*

hairy, oval leaves; it occurs in hammocks in central FL.

**Habitat:** Keys cactus barrens, coastal hammocks and salt marshes.

**Best Survey Season:** All year.

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

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

**Protection and 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.