

TOOTHED SAVORY

Clinopodium dentatum (Chapman) Kuntze

Synonyms: *Calamintha dentata* Chapman

Family: Lamiaceae (mint)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL



Field Description: This species is a small, short-lived, perennial, evergreen shrub with lavender flowers. It grows 1 - 2.5 feet tall and has showy flowers with a strong herb fragrance, similar to rosemary or mint. The leaves are whorled around the stem and often have 2 - 3 larger leaves and 2 - 3 smaller leaves. The larger leaves have pointed edges near the tips and can be curled around the edges. The lavender flowers are white and purple-spotted near the center. Where it occurs, it may grow commonly and be found in large quantities. When found on sandy slopes at the heads of some ravines, its leaves are larger and broader and its habit more slender.

Similar Species: The flowers of *Conradina* species can look similar to *Calamintha* species. However, *Conradina* spp. have narrow, flat, rough leaves that look similar to rosemary. *Calamintha dentata* leaves are narrow at the base and wider near the tip.

toothed savory

Clinopodium dentatum

Related Rare Species: Ashe's savory (*Calamintha ashei*) is also a state threatened species. Georgia savory (*Calamintha georgiana*) is state endangered.

Habitat: Sandhills or dry bluff forests, roadsides and open, sandy disturbed areas.

Best Survey Season: Spring-fall.

Range-wide Distribution: Florida panhandle, southern Georgia.

Conservation Status: This species has a very narrow distribution, endemic to southern Georgia and the Florida panhandle, and is not adequately protected. Its habitat is being converted to pine plantations. Crop farming or pasture development on cleared sand ridges has eliminated some habitat.

Protection and Management: Maintenance of natural canopy and periodic disturbance are necessary for this species. Conversion of its natural habitat to slash pine plantations could be considered a threat as the trees may eventually shade it out. However it seems to do well (at least usually) where site disturbance occurs.

References: Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Weakley 2015