ETONIA ROSEMARY
Conradina etonia Kral & McCartney
Synonyms: none
Family: Lamiaceae (mint)
FNAI Ranks: G1/S1
Legal Status: US-Endangered; FL-none


Don Herring

Field Description: Aromatic, evergreen **shrub**, 0.6 - 1.4 m tall, with slender, square twigs and leaves in tight clusters. **Leaves** 1.3 - 2.5 cm long, narrow, densely hairy on both surfaces, gland-dotted on upper surface, branch veins visible on under surface; leaf margins inrolled. Two-lipped tubular **flowers** about 2.5 cm long, in clusters along upper half of stem; **flower tube** white, tinged with lavender or rose, sharply bent above the middle; lower lip of **flower** with purple spots.

Similar Species: Etoniah rosemary differs from other woody mints in NE FL by its strongly bent flower tube and hairy lower leaf surface.

Related Rare Species: Short-leaved rosemary (*Conradina brevifolia*), federally endangered although not considered a distinct species by some authorities, is a densely hairy plant lacking the visible branch veins on its leaves; it occurs in Lake Wales Ridge scrub. Large-flowered rosemary (*Conradina grandiflora*), state-threatened, found in scrub from Volusia to Dade counties, also lacks the visible branch veins. Also see Apalachicola rosemary (*Conradina glabra*) in this guide.

Etonia rosemary *Conradina etonia*

Habitat: Road edges and openings in white sand scrub with sparse overstory of sand pine and understory of scrub oak and palmetto.

Best Survey Season: Summer-fall; mostly October - November.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to Putnam County, FL.

Conservation Status: Known only in Etoniah Creek State Forest and vicinity, with a total of fewer than 1,000 plants; species is in cultivation at Bok Tower Garden in Lake Wales, FL.

Protection and Management: Survey all scrub communities in the vicinity for this species; conduct experiments to determine effect of fire and institute fire plan based on results.

References: Coile 2000, Crook 1998, Johnson 1998, Kral and McCartney 1991, USFWS 1994b, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

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