

## APALACHICOLA ROSEMARY

*Conradina glabra* Shinnery

**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Lamiaceae (mint)

**FNAI Ranks:** G1/S1

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



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**Field Description:** Densely branched, low **shrub**, less than 0.8 m tall, with a strong minty odor. **Leaves** evergreen, opposite, needle-like; leaves in clusters, giving the **branches** a bushy look. Upper surface of **leaves** smooth and hairless; lower surface covered by densely matted but nearly invisible hairs (visible with magnification). **Flowers** usually in groups of 2 or 3. **Flower** 1.3 - 1.9 cm long, flower bent sharply upward, lower lip of flower three-lobed, white to pale lavender-pink with a band of purple dots on the white throat. **Calyx** smooth or with a few short hairs.

**Similar Species:** Hairy rosemary (*Conradina canescens*) is the only other *Conradina* in this area; both upper and lower leaf surfaces and the calyx of hairy rosemary are densely hairy; leaves are often more tightly inrolled than those of Apalachicola rosemary; flowers tend to be darker, with a bluish tint. Apalachicola rosemary differs from other woody mints in this area, such as *Calamintha*, by its sharply bent flower tube and hairy lower leaf surfaces.

**Related Rare Species:** Large-flowered rosemary (*Conradina grandiflora*), state-threatened, occurs in central and south Florida. Toothed savory (*Calamintha dentata*), state-threatened, does not have the sharply bent flower tube; its leaves are nearly hairless. Also see Etonia rosemary (*Conradina etonia*) in this guide.

**Habitat:** Upper edges of steepheads in the transition to sandhills, edges of pine plantations, highway and utility rights-of-way.

**Best Survey Season:** Spring-summer; March - June, occasionally until December.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to Liberty County, FL.

**Conservation Status:** All currently known natural populations occur in pine plantations and utility or road rights-of-way. Experimental populations occur on private conservation lands.

**Protection and Management:** Remove competing vegetation by thinning, clipping, or carefully monitored use of prescribed fire. Avoid repeated or severe disturbances such as road widening, clearcutting, site preparation for silviculture, and pine plantation. Avoid herbicides in rights-of-way.

**References:** Coile 2000, Crook 1998, Kral 1983, USFWS 1994a, Gordon 1993, 1996a, Gordon 1996b, Shinner 1962, Godfrey 1988, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

