WIRY FLATSEDGE
Cyperus filiformis Sw.
Synonyms: *Cyperus floridanus* Britt.
Family: Cyperaceae (sedge)
FNAI Ranks: G4G5/S2
Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered
Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL


photo taken at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park by Lydia Cuni

Field Description: Herbaceous perennial with trigonous **culms** 8-14 inches tall. **Leaves** are flat and up to about 9 inches in length. The **inflorescence** consists of 2-8 spikelets in one loose cluster with no rays and 2-3 ascending bracts, rachilla winged. Floral scales are medially green and 3-ribbed and laterally brown and 3-5 ribbed. **Flowers** have 3 stigmas. The **fruit** is a black,obovoid achene.

Similar Species: Fragrant flatsedge (*Cyperus odoratus*) is a much more widespread species with 10-60 spikelets, has well-developed rays, and 4-10 bracts.

Related Rare Species: Limestone flatsedge (*Cyperus fuligineus*) is another rare sedge species that occurs in the Keys in pine rocklands and Keys tidal rock barrens.

Habitat: This species occurs in dry, sandy, open sites in pine rocklands, rockland hammock, and disturbed areas.

Best Survey Season: This species flowers and fruits spring-fall.

Range-wide Distribution: Outside of southern Florida, this species also occurs in the West Indies.

Conservation Status: This species has a limited range in Florida, only occurring in the very southern part of the state in Collier, Miami-Dade, and Monroe (including the Keys) counties. While more populations have been discovered of late than were once believed to be in the state, there are still relatively few occurrences extant. Urban development in and around Miami has extirpated populations and could continue to do so where this species occurs and is not protected. In the future, populations occurring near the coast may be threatened by sea-level rise and associated habitat changes. Luckily, this species can persist well in disturbed habitats.

Protection and Management: Continue to protect populations on existing managed areas and acquire additional rockland habitat for protection. Given the likely exposure to invasive species, manage invasive plant populations on occupied managed areas.

References: Boufford 1993, Correll & Correll 1982, Weakley 2022, Wunderlin 2011