

FEWFLOWER HOLDBACK

Denisophytum pauciflorum (Griseb.) E. Gagnon & G.P. Lewis

Synonyms: *Libidibia pauciflora* Griseb.;
Poinciana pauciflora (Griseb.) Small;
Caesalpinia pauciflora (Griseb.) C. Wright ex
Sauvalle

Family: Fabaceae (pea)

FNAI Ranks: G2G4/S1

Legal Status: US-none; FL-Endangered



Field Description: Spiny **shrub**, scrambling or erect, to 1.8 m tall. **Leaves** twice-compound, with 3 - 5 pairs of compound leaflets, each of these with 4 - 7 pairs of sub-leaflets that are oval with notched tips. **Flowers** with 5 yellow, nearly equal petals less than 10 mm long; stamens 10, less than 1.5 cm long, only slightly extended beyond petals. **Fruit** a flattened, elongated legume without spines.

Similar Species: Dwarf poinciana (*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*), an exotic species, has larger flowers and longer stamens (to 5 cm long) extending far beyond the bright yellow petals, which often turn orange or red with age.

Related Rare Species: Several pea family species are rare in the Keys; included in this guide are Big Pine partridge pea (*Chamaecrista lineata* var. *keyensis*) and pineland pencil flower (*Stylosanthes calcicola*).

Habitat: Pine rocklands and tropical hammocks.

Best Survey Season: All year.

Range-wide Distribution: Monroe County Keys, FL; West Indies.

Conservation Status: Known from only a few locations in the Lower Keys, only one in a conservation area.

Protection and Management: Burn pine rocklands in the Keys every 7 - 10 years. Purchase and protect remaining fragments of rocklands.

References: Coile 2000, IRC 1999, Isely 1990, Small 1933, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

