

GARRETT'S SCRUB BALM

Dicerandra christmanii R.B. Huck & Judd

Synonyms: none

Family: Lamiaceae (mint)

FNAI Ranks: G1/S1

Legal Status: US-Endangered; FL-Endangered



Gil Nelson

Field Description: Low **shrub**, to 0.4 m tall, with numerous stiff but non-woody, erect, square stems rising from a woody base. **Leaves** about 2.5 cm long, opposite, entire, narrowly oblong with rounded tips, pitted with glands. **Flowers** 1 - 3 per whorl, less than 2 cm long, white or cream-colored with purple spots and lines; 2-lipped with rounded lobes and sharply bent tube; stamens with bright yellow anthers extend beyond the flower. Stems and leaves smell like eucalyptus.

Similar Species: Long-spurred mint (*Dicerandra cornutissima*), federal and state-endangered, resembles Garrett's scrub balm in growth form; leaves are narrow, needle-like, and smell of mint; flowers are rose-purple with dark purple lines and dots, whitish throat, and sharply bent flower tube; stamens extend beyond flower, anthers are lavender or white with long, pointed spurs. Also see Lakela's mint (*Dicerandra immaculata*) in this guide.

Related Rare Species: None

Habitat: Openings in oak scrub on the Lake Wales Ridge.

Best Survey Season: Fall; July - November.

Range-wide Distribution: Both species are endemic to FL.

Conservation Status: Garrett's scrub balm is known from 5 populations; only one population is protected. Long-spurred mint is known from 15 occurrences; only 6 are protected, all in a single conservation area.

Protection and Management: Purchase and protect privately owned sites. Control foot and off-road-vehicle traffic. Eradicate exotic pest plants. Use occasional fire to open up habitat and reduce competition.

References: Coile 2000, Eisner et al. 1990, Huck 1981, Huck 1987, Huck et al. 1989, Kral 1983, Menges et al. 1999, USFWS 1986b, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

