

SCRUB BUCKWHEAT

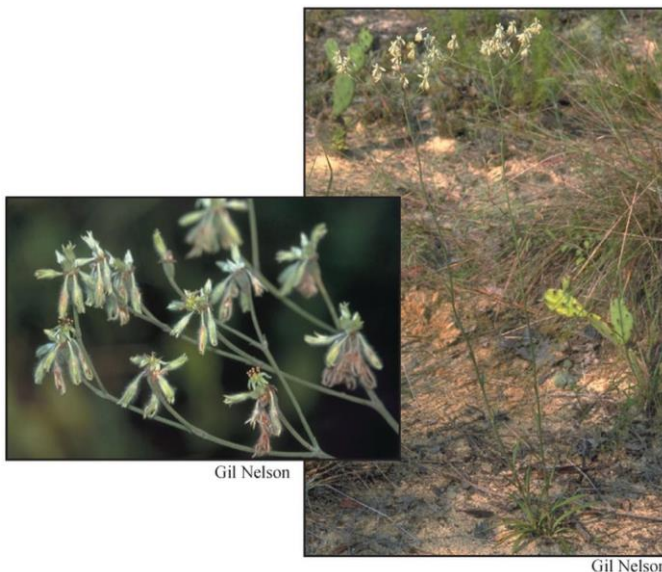
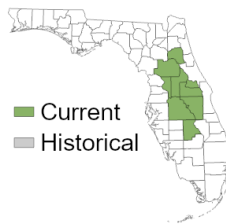
Eriogonum floridanum Small

Synonyms: *Eriogonum longifolium* Nutt. var. *gnaphalifolium* Gandog.

Family: Polygonaceae (buckwheat)

FNAI Ranks: G4T2?/S2

Legal Status: US-Threatened; FL-Endangered



Field Description: Perennial **herb** with several erect **stems** up to 1 m tall. **Basal leaves** 15 - 20 cm long, narrow, bronze-green above and wooly-white beneath, in rosettes; **stem leaves** similar to basal leaves, widely spaced, and alternate. **Stems** topped by loose clusters of smaller branches, each branch supporting 15 - 20 small, white, silky-hairy **flowers** held together in a cup-like structure (**involucre**), with flowers hanging below the rim of the cup.

Similar Species: Dog-tongue or wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum tomentosum*) is common in sandhill, scrub, and flatwoods; basal leaves have red midveins and leafstalks; stem leaves are in whorls and have broadly rounded tips.

Related Rare Species: Small's jointweed (*Polygonella myriophylla*) and Florida jointweed (*Polygonella basiramia*), also in the buckwheat family, are included in this guide.

Habitat: Sandhills, oak-hickory scrub on yellow sands, high pineland between scrub and sandhill, turkey oak barrens.

Best Survey Season: Spring-fall; May - October, or following fire.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to central Florida.

Conservation Status: About half of 100 known populations are protected, many on Ocala National Forest.

Protection and Management: Use prescribed fire to create openings in scrub and sandhill; prevent conversion of habitat to agriculture and pine plantations; purchase populations on private lands.

References: Coile 2000, Small 1933, USFWS 1998, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

