

FLORIDA WHITE

Glutophrissa drusilla

Order: Lepidoptera

Family: Pieridae

FNAI Ranks: G5/S2

U.S. Status: none

FL Status: none



Description: Very difficult to distinguish from the much more common great southern whites on the wing. At rest, unlike great southern whites, the antennal clubs are white, not turquoise. Above, the black margin on the forewing doesn't extend inward along the veins as it does in the great southern white. Below, Florida whites have orange at the base of the hindwing leading margin that great southern whites lack (Glassberg et al. 2000).

Similar Species: This species is similar to the great southern white (*Ascia monuste*).

Habitat: Occupies primarily rockland hammocks in southeastern coastal Florida and the Florida Keys. It may also be found in various coastal areas containing limber caper (*Cynophalla flexuosa*).

Seasonal Occurrence: Most common May - August.

Florida Distribution: The Florida Keys and coastal areas of southern mainland Florida.

Range-wide Distribution: The southern United States, the Caribbean, Central America, and much of South America.

Conservation Status: The Florida white has declined over several decades due to various threats that are not well studied. Historically, development and habitat destruction reduced the overall range of the butterfly. Additional comprehensive surveys are needed in the upper Keys and mainland Florida to better ascertain the status of the species.

Protection and Management: Other than occasional prescribed fire into the periphery of rockland hammock, there are not specific management considerations. Creating gaps in the canopy could be beneficial for allowing host and nectar resources to proliferate.

References: Glassberg et al. 2000

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