

## SEA ROSEMARY

*Heliotropium gnaphalodes* L.

**Synonyms:** *Argusia gnaphalodes* (L.) Heine;

*Tournefortia gnaphalodes* (L.) R. Br. ex

Roemer & J.A. Schultes

**Family:** Boraginaceae (borage)

**FNAI Ranks:** G4/S3

**Legal Status:** US-none; FL-Endangered



Amy Jenkins

Kim Alexander



**Field Description:** A clumping and sprawling shrub with many fragile, subtly hairy branches. Individuals may reach 1.8 m high and up to 6 m wide in ideal situations. Leaves are alternate, thickened, narrowly spatulate, 5 - 10 cm long, and roughly 6 mm wide. The leaves are covered in hairs that impart a pale gray-blue-green color and are arranged on the branches in somewhat dense terminal whorls with the lower leaves dying off as the branch lengthens. The 3 mm wide, white, 5-lobed flowers are on curled terminal spikes in 2 rows. The fruits are black, 3 mm long, 2-seeded, ovoid drupes.

**Similar Species:** Chiggery grapes (*Heliotropium verdcourtii*) is a climbing woody shrub with branches and leaves that are rough to the touch with stiff plant hairs. This species is found in Collier, Hendry, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

**Related Rare Species:** Chiggery grapes (*Heliotropium verdcourtii*), state-endangered, is a climbing woody shrub with branches and leaves that are rough to the touch with stiff plant hairs.

sea rosemary

*Heliotropium gnaphalodes*

**Habitat:** Grows on coastal dunes and berms.

**Best Survey Season:** Winter-spring.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Native to coastal peninsular Florida and elsewhere in the Gulf/Caribbean basin.

**Conservation Status:** Listed state-endangered and tracked as vulnerable; 35 extant, and 8 possibly extirpated or historic populations are reported for South Florida. Many are found on conservation lands.

**Protection and Management:** Vulnerable to freezing and beach erosion

**References:** Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Ward 1979.