FLORIDA KEYS INDIGO
Indigofera oxycarpa Desv.
Synonyms: *Indigofera trita* L. f. ssp. *scabra* (Roth) de Kort & Thijsse.; *Indigofera keyensis* Small; *Indigofera trita* L. f. var. *keyensis* (Small) Kartesz & Gandhi; *Indigofera mucronata* Spreng. ex DC. var. *keyensis* (Small) Isely; *Indigofera mucronata* Spreng. ex DC.
Family: Fabaceae (pea)
FNAI Ranks: G5?/S1
Legal Status: US-none; FL-Endangered


Gil Nelson

Field Description: Perennial **herb** with scrambling or arching stems up to 0.9 m long, covered with short, straight hairs. **Leaves** alternate, with 3 - 7 hairy, paired leaflets; leaflets usually more than 5 mm wide, with a bristle tip. **Flowers** 6 mm long, dark pink, typically pea-flower shaped with a large, erect banner petal; in lax, many-flowered clusters. **Fruit** a pod, 30 - 46 mm long, usually curved.

Similar Species: Florida coastal indigo (*Indigofera miniata*) is a sprawling, semiweedy plant with smaller leaflets, 3 - 7 pale salmon-pink flowers per cluster, and straight legumes.

Related Rare Species: Several pea family species are rare in south Florida; see in the guide: Small's milkpea (*Galactia smallii*), Florida prairie clover (*Dalea floridana*), crenulate lead-plant (*Amorpha crenulata*), and Big Pine partridge pea (*Chamaecrista keyensis*).

Florida Keys indigo ***Indigofera oxycarpa***

Habitat: Coastal berm, Keys cactus barrens, and sunny edges of rockland hammocks; and in disturbed sites.

Best Survey Season: Flowers all year.

Range-wide Distribution: Central America, West Indies, Monroe County Keys, FL. Plants known historically from Dade and Collier have been extirpated.

Conservation Status: Six occurrences, with a total of 1000 plants, are known in the Monroe County Keys; only 3 of these are protected on state parks.

Protection and Management: Acquire privately owned sites. Eradicate exotic pest plants.

References: Bradley and Gann 1999, Coile 2000, IRC 1999, Isely 1982, Isely 1990, Long and Lakela 1976, Small 1933, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

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