

## HAMMOCK SHRUB-VERBENA

*Lantana canescens* Kunth

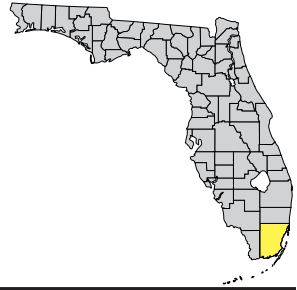
**Synonyms:** *Lantana microcephala* A.Rich.

**Family:** Verbenaceae (verbena)

**FNAI Ranks:** G4/S1

**Legal Status:** US—none FL—Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US—UPL FL—UPL



Gil Nelson

**Field Description:** **Shrub** to 4 feet tall, with gray or white, 4-angled stems. **Leaves** 1 - 2.5 inches long, opposite, simple, lance-shaped, densely hairy on both surfaces, with shallowly toothed margins, long-pointed tips, and wedge-shaped leaf bases. **Flowers** white, tubular with 5 spreading, irregular lobes, in flattened clusters at the ends of long stalks arising in the angle of leaf and stem. **Fruit** small, one-seeded, hard, dry.

**Similar Species:** Buttonsage (*Lantana involucrata*) has white flowers in a dense, flat-topped head with many bracts; it has yellowish stems, oval leaves with broadly pointed tips, and purple, fleshy fruit; it grows in coastal hammocks and dunes. The common landscape plants in the genus *Lantana* have yellow, orange, purple, or multi-colored flower heads.

**Related Rare Species:** See Florida lantana (*Lantana depressa*) in this guide.

## Hammock shrub-verbena

*Lantana canescens*

**Habitat:** Transition zones between rockland hammock and pine rockland.

**Best Survey Season:** Flowers all year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** FL, West Indies.

**Conservation Status:** Hammock shrub-verbena is known from only 3 sites, all on conservation areas.

**Protection & Management:** Protect remaining rocklands from development. Use prescribed fire in rocklands to create a mosaic of habitats; allow fire to burn from pinelands into hammock transition zones. Manually remove hardwoods if fire is not practical. Eradicate exotic pest plants.

**References:** Coile 2000, Hammer 1997, IRC 1999, Nelson 1996, Small 1933, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

