

SAND FLAX

Linum arenicola (Small) Winkl.

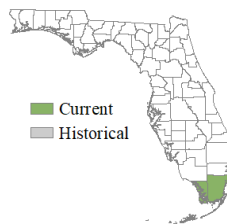
Synonyms: *Cathartolinum arenicola* Small

Family: Linaceae (flax)

FNAI Ranks: G1G2/S1S2

Legal Status: US-Endangered FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-OBL+ FL-UPL



Amy Jenkins



Camille Eckel

Field Description: Perennial **herb** with several wiry, angled **stems** 8 - 28 inches tall, usually without leaves by flowering time. **Leaves** less than 0.5 inch long, very narrow, with a pair of small red glands at the base that persists after leaf fall; opposite on lower stem, alternate on middle and upper stem. **Flowers** less than 0.5 inch wide, with 5 yellow spreading petals, 5 gland-toothed **sepals**, and 5 separate **styles**. **Fruit** a rounded capsule with a tiny, pointed beak and persistent sepals, opening into 10 segments.

Similar Species: Stiff yellow flax (*Linum medium*) and Florida yellow flax (*Linum floridanum*) lack the red glands at the base of the leaves.

Related Rare Species: See in this guide West's flax (*Linum westii*) and Carter's flax (*Linum carteri*).

Habitat: Pine rocklands, marl prairies, and adjacent disturbed areas.

Best Survey Season: Flowers and fruits March - November. Petals fall soon after

sand flax

Linum arenicola

flowers open in the morning.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to Dade County and Monroe County Keys, FL.

Conservation Status: Only 7 occurrences are currently known, most in unprotected, artificial, or poorly managed habitats.

Protection and Management: Apply prescribed fire every 3 - 7 years to create a mosaic of rockland habitats. Eradicate exotic pest plants. Restore suitable habitat and re-establish this species in conservation areas. Purchase and protect remaining fragments of pine rockland.

References: Bradley and Gann 1999, Coile 2000, Godfrey and Wooten 1981, Robertson 1971, Rogers 1963, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.