

## CARTER'S FLAX

*Linum carteri* Small

**Synonyms:** *Cathartolinum carteri* (Small) Small

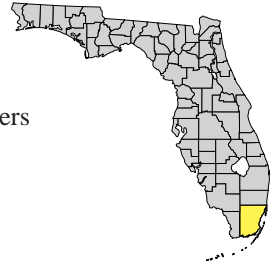
*Linum rigidum* Pursh var. *carteri* (Small) C. M. Rogers

**Family:** Linaceae (flax)

**FNAI Ranks:** G2T1/S1

**Legal Status:** US—Candidate FL—Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US—FACW FL—FACW



Billy B. Boothe

**Field Description:** Annual herb 4 - 24 inches tall with smooth, narrowly wing-angled stems. Leaves 0.4 - 1.2 inches long, very narrow, alternate, often with a pair of small red glands at the base, upper leaves gland-toothed. Flowers about 0.5 inch wide, with 5 yellow-orange petals and 5 gland-toothed sepals; style undivided for almost entire length. Fruit a rounded capsule, opening into 5 segments; sepals shed by time of fruit maturity, not persisting at base of fruit.

**Similar Species:** All other species of *Linum* in Florida have distinctly 5-parted styles and fruits with persistent sepals (see drawing of sand flax, *Linum arenicola*). A south FL form of piriqueta (*Piriqueta caroliniana*, syn. *Piriqueta glabrescens*) has similar, but paler yellow flowers with hairy sepals and flower stalks; its leaves are narrow and alternate but lack the red glands.

**Related Rare Species:** Small's flax (*Linum carteri* var. *smallii*) lacks the red glands at base of the leaf. Also see in this guide West's flax (*Linum westii*) and sand flax (*Linum arenicola*).

## Carter's flax

## *Linum carteri* var. *carteri*

**Habitat:** Carter's flax: pine rockland. Small's flax: pine rocklands, pine flatwoods, adjacent disturbed areas.

**Best Survey Season:** Flowers and fruits Feb–May, flowers opening in morning, shedding petals by mid-day.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Carter's flax: Endemic to Dade County. Small's flax: southern peninsular FL.

**Conservation Status:** Carter's flax: 9 known occurrences, 3 on conservation lands. Small's flax: 11 known occurrences, 6 on conservation lands.

**Protection & Management:** Purchase and protect remaining fragments of pine rockland. Re-establish plants in conservation areas. Apply prescribed fire every 3 - 7 years to create a mosaic of rockland habitats. Eradicate exotic pest plants.

**References:** Bradley and Gann 1999, Coile 2000, Godfrey and Wooten 1981, IRC 1999, Kral 1983, Robertson 1971, Rogers 1963, Rogers 1968, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

