

BOYKIN'S LOBELIA

Lobelia boykinii Torr. & Gray ex A. DC.

Synonyms: none

Family: Campanulaceae (bellflower)

FNAI Ranks: G2?/S1

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered



Flowering Boykin's lobelia. Photo by Amy Jenkins.

Field Description: Corolla **blue, lower lip hairy**. Leaves **cauline, narrowly linear**, and less than 1mm wide, but generally **less than .5mm wide**. Plants not mat forming, rhizomatous.

Similar Species: There are 15 members of the *Lobelia* genus located in Florida. The species most easily confused with Boykin's lobelia is Nutall's lobelia (*Lobelia nutallii*). Nutall's lobelia has linear to linear oblanceolate leaves which 1-5mm wide, while Boykin's lobelia has narrowly linear leaves that are less than 1mm wide, but **generally less than .5mm wide**, and often deciduous when flowering. Additionally, Nutall's lobelia has a thin, wiry stem which is often thinner than the leaf, while Boykin's lobelia's **stem is often thicker than the leaves**.

Related Rare Species: There are 15 members of the *Lobelia* genus located in Florida. The species most easily confused with Boykin's lobelia is Nuttall's lobelia (*Lobelia nuttallii*). Nuttall's lobelia has linear to linear oblanceolate leaves which 1-5mm wide, while Boykin's lobelia has narrowly linear leaves that are less than 1mm wide, but **generally less than .5mm wide**, and often deciduous when flowering. Additionally, Nuttall's lobelia has a thin, wiry stem which is often thinner than the leaf, while Boykin's lobelia's **stem is often thicker than the leaves**.

Habitat: Broad drainage ditches bordering swampy woodlands and cypress ponds.

Best Survey Season: Herbarium specimens from FL were collected in flower at the end of May and July.

Range-wide Distribution: Jackson and Okaloosa counties FL (both historic).

Conservation Status: Possibly extirpated. Species has only been documented twice in Florida, but not seen since 1975. Neither site has been relocated despite searches by multiple different botanists over multiple years. One site was built over by a road, and has not been seen since.

Protection and Management: Only one occurrence extant in the FNAI database as of January 2024 and it is protected on a Conservation Easement.

References: Weakly, 2020. Wunderlin and Hansen, 2011.