

SCRUB LUPINE

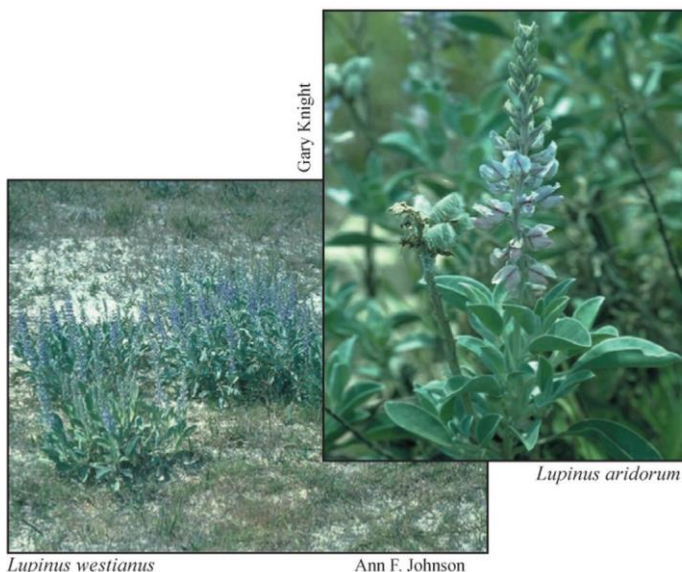
Lupinus aridorum McFarline ex Beckner

Synonyms: *Lupinus westianus* Small var. *aridorum* (McFarlin ex Beckner) Isely

Family: Fabaceae (pea)

FNAI Ranks: G3T1/S1

Legal Status: US-Endangered; FL-Endangered



Field Description: Biennial or perennial **herb** with a soft-woody base and shrubby appearance. **Stems** silvery, upright or spreading, to 1 m tall. **Leaves** 2.5 - 7.6 cm long, simple, the lower ones clustered, the upper alternate; oval with rounded base and pointed tip, with short, silver, silky-satiny hairs; **stipules** (bracts at the base of each leaf) absent or tiny. **Flowers** pink, pea-like with a maroon-red spot on the banner petal; in erect clusters; **calyx** two-lipped and silky. **Fruit** a wooly legume.

Similar Species: Lady lupine (*Lupinus villosus*) also has simple leaves and pink flowers with a red spot, but has densely shaggy, rather than silky, leaves with conspicuous stipules. Skyblue lupine (*Lupinus diffusus*) is a Panhandle species with blue flowers and conspicuous stipules.

Related Rare Species: Gulf Coast lupine (*L. westianus*), state-threatened and federal management concern, is similar to scrub lupine except it has blue flowers; it occurs in scrub along the FL Panhandle coast.

Habitat: Openings in sand pine and rosemary scrub.

Best Survey Season: Flowers March - May, but leaves are distinctive all year.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to 2 counties in central FL: Orange County on the southern Mount Dora Ridge and Polk County on the Winter Haven Ridge; it is not known to occur on the Lake Wales Ridge.

Conservation Status: Only 15 populations remain, with fewer than 1000 plants, most in remnant scrub on private lands where they are vulnerable to destruction by off-road-vehicles, grazing and trampling, and development. Only two populations are on conservation areas.

Protection and Management: Purchase scrub sites with known populations. Use fencing to exclude off-road-vehicles and cattle. Apply prescribed fire to create a mosaic of scrub habitats. Maintain plants in cultivation.

References: Beckner 1982, Coile 2000, Isely 1986b, Isely 1990, USFWS 1998, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

