

NIEUWLAND'S LOOSESTRIFE

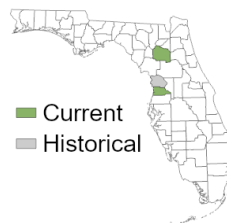
Lythrum nieuwlantii A.R. Franck & C. Werner

Synonyms: none

Family: Lythraceae (loosestrife)

FNAI Ranks: G1/S1

Legal Status: US-none; FL-none



No Image
Available

Field Description: Herb with fertile above-ground stems 10 - 50 cm tall, flowering portion of the **stem** to 13 cm long; **stem** internodes subequal to shorter than the subtending **leaves**, sometimes longer at the basalmost part of the stem; **leaves** opposite and sometimes alternate distally, sessile or the petiole to 0.2 mm long, the base of the blade adjacent to the stem, larger leaves 0.5 - 1.1 cm long, 1.8 - 2.7 times longer than wide; **floral tube** subcylindric; petals 4 - 6 mm long.

Similar Species: All specimens of Nieuwland's loosestrife possess a very consistent and distinctive morphology. Nieuwland's loosestrife does combine some features of winged loosestrife (*Lythrum alatum*) and lowland loosestrife (*Lythrum flagellare*). Like winged loosestrife, it has stems with sessile, densely arranged leaves, a subcylindric floral tube, larger petals, and a later flowering season. Like loosestrife, it has a short stature and can flower at opposite nodes.

Related Rare Species: Lowland loosestrife (*Lythrum flagellare*) is similar but differs from Nieuwland's loosestrife by stem internodes usually, or at least some, conspicuously longer than the subtending leaves; leaves opposite, usually distinctly petiolate, the petiole 0.5 - 1.0 mm long, with a discernible gap between the stem and the base of the blade, larger leaves 0.7 - 1.4 cm long, 1.2 - 5 times longer than wide; floral tube narrowly obconic; petals 2.5 - 4.3 mm long; flowering February - June.

Habitat: The species is known from disturbed, herbaceous wetlands on somewhat poorly drained sandy soils of the Blichton or Sparr series.

Best Survey Season: May-November; Flowering February - June

Range-wide Distribution: Apparently endemic to Northern peninsular FL (Alachua, Citrus, and Hernando counties).

Conservation Status: This species has an extremely limited range in Florida (Alachua, Citrus, and Hernando Counties). At this time no other populations are known, but given the proclivity towards disturbed areas, Nieuwland's loosestrife (*Lythum nieuwlandii*) may be more widespread than realized (Franck and Werner, 2023). The main threats affecting the known populations are management of roads and powerline right-of-ways and fire exclusion in adjacent pine-dominated uplands that would typically burn into ecotones and marsh habitat suitable for the element.

Protection and Management: Communicate with utility corridor company to ensure the locations for the element are not sprayed with herbicide during regular ROW management activities and prescribe fire at the appropriate fire-return intervals for pine-dominated communities adjacent to known populations of this species.

References: Weakley, A. S. and the Southeastern Flora Team 2024, Franck and Werner 2023.