NARROWLEAF HORNPOD
Mitreola angustifolia (Torrey & A. Gray) J.B. Nelson
Synonyms: *Mitreola angustifolium* (Torr. & Gray) J. Nelson
Family: Loganiaceae (strychnine)
FNAI Ranks: G4G5/S2
Legal Status: US-none; FL-none


Narrowleaf hornpod. © Eric Powell

Field Description: Herb, 10 - 50 cm. **Leaves** usually sessile, sometimes subsessile; blade usually narrowly elliptic, sometimes elliptic, 0.9 - 3.3 by 0.2 - 0.6 (-0.7) cm, larger leaves 4 - 5 times as long as wide, base usually rounded, sometimes cuneate, surfaces glabrous. **Inflorescences** congested, flowers longer than internodes, ultimate branches 1.0 - 1.5 cm. **Flowers** sessile; calyx slightly ciliate along margins and midrib outside, glabrous within; corolla white, 2 - 3 mm, throat with ring of hairs. **Capsules** 2 - 4 mm, horns lightly tuberculate mostly on inner faces. **Seeds** obliquely ellipsoid, 0.4 mm, reticulate.

Similar Species: There are three hornpod (*Mitreola* sp). species in Florida, including narrowleaf hornpod. Narrowleaf hornpod can be differentiated from lac hornpod (*Mitreola petiolata*) by its leaves which are 1 - 4 cm long and sessile as opposed to 2 - 9 cm long and petiolate or subsessile. Narrowleaf hornpod can be differentiated from swamp hornpod (*Mitreola sessilifolia*) by its mature seed which is reticulate and iridescent, as opposed to smooth and shiny, and its more narrow leaves which are 4 times as long as wide instead of 1 - 2 times as long as wide.

Related Rare Species: There are no other closely related rare species in Florida.

Habitat: This species grows in clay-based Carolina bays and other Coastal Plain depressional wetlands.

Best Survey Season: Flowering predominantly June through September.

Range-wide Distribution: Southeastern SC south to southern FL, and west to southern AL and southeastern MS

Conservation Status: Narrowleaf hornpod can be found in 16 different counties spanning all across the state, from Escambia County and as far south as Palm Beach County. Many extant occurrences are located on roadsides (or roadsides adjacent to Conservation Lands) which are vulnerable to roadside maintenance, such as mowing and herbicide use. Additional threats include urban housing development on private lands.

Protection and Management: Refrain from roadside maintenance practices, such as mowing and herbicide use, when plants are flowering and fruiting.

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