

PALE LIDFLOWER

Myrcia aromatica Schlechtendal

Synonyms: *Calyptanthus pallens* Griseb.;

Myrcia neopallens A.R. Lourenço & E. Lucas

Family: Myrtaceae (myrtle)

FNAI Ranks: G4/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL



Jenna Annis

Field Description: Trees or shrubs with young stems prominently two-winged, generally pubescent and up to 26 ft tall. **Leaves** coriaceous, elliptic, 1.9-3.9 inch long, petioled and tapered at both ends; lateral veins close and parallel, usually glandular-punctate above. **Panicles** coppery to yellow or gray white, 3-4x compound, **flowers** in clusters near tips of branches; hypanthium campanulate; stamens 50-60. **Fruit** a dark red berry; globose and 0.2-0.3 inch wide. (Long and Lakela 1971)

Similar Species: Myrtle-of-the-river (*Myrcia zuzygium*) has young stems rounded and not winged, with a glabrous inflorescence and sessile leaves (Long and Lakela 1971). Stoppers (*Eugenia* spp.) have similar leaves and forked branches but their flowers have petals.

pale lidflower

Myrcia aromatica

Related Rare Species: See myrtle-of-the-river (*Myrcia zuzygium*)

Habitat: Hammocks, rockland hammocks.

Best Survey Season: Spring-fall.

Range-wide Distribution: FL, West Indies, Mexico and Central America

Conservation Status: The species is known to occur on Florida Keys WEA, and at least 10 other conservation sites.

Protection and Management: Preserve remaining rockland hammocks by purchase or conservation easement. Eradicate invasive exotic species within known locations.

References: Little 1979, Long and Lakela 1971, Weakley 2020, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011