

CRYSTAL LAKE NAILWORT

Paronychia minima (L.C. Anderson) J.J. Schenk & A.D. Appleton

Synonyms: *Nyachia pulvinata* Small;
Paronychia chartacea Fern. ssp. *minima* L.C. Anders.; *Paronychia chartacea* Fern. var. *minima* (L.C. Anderson) R.L. Hartman

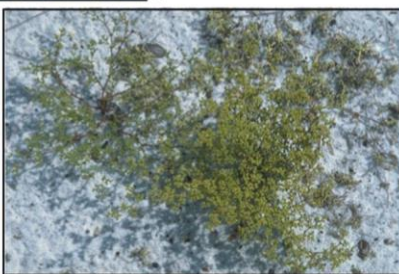
Family: Caryophyllaceae (pink)

FNAI Ranks: G1/S1

Legal Status: US-Threatened; FL-Threatened



Paronychia chartacea
ssp. *minima*



Paronychia chartacea ssp. *chartacea* Gil Nelson

Field Description: Annual **herb** with spreading, wiry **stems** rising from a stout taproot. **Stems** either dense and compact (female-flowered plants) or with spindly, forking branches forming cross-shaped patterns (male-flowered plants). **Leaves** tiny, opposite, papery, and scale-like with strongly inrolled margins. **Flowers** tiny, with 5 white, deeply hooded sepals and no petals; in small clusters, 1.3 - 3.8 cm wide.

Similar Species: This is the only *Paronychia* species in the Panhandle with deeply hooded sepals and scale-like leaves. Sand-squares' (*Paronychia erecta*) branches form square or rectangular mats; it occurs on dunes. Rugel's nailwort (*P. rugelii*) has hairy branches that form square mats.

Related Rare Species: Papery nailwort (*Paronychia chartacea*), federally threatened, has narrower leaves and larger flower clusters.

Habitat: Sandy openings around sandhill upland lakes and karst ponds.

Crystal Lake nailwort

Paronychia minima

Best Survey Season: Late summer and fall.

Range-wide Distribution: Crystal Lake nailwort is endemic to Bay and Washington counties, FL.

Conservation Status: Only 9 populations of Crystal Lake nailwort are known, most on private lands; these are threatened by residential development and lakeshore clearing.

Protection and Management: Leave vegetation around karst ponds intact. Burn surrounding uplands. Protect Lake Wales Ridge scrub through conservation purchases and occasional prescribed fires.

References: Anderson 1991b, Coile 2000, Core 1941, Kral 1983, USFWS 1998, Ward 1977, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

