

## FLORIDA PEPEROMIA

*Peperomia obtusifolia* (L.) A. Dietr.

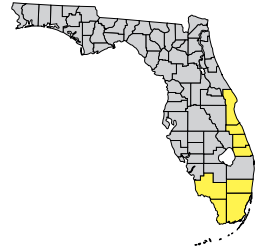
**Synonym:** *Peperomia floridana* Small

**Family:** Piperaceae (pepper)

**FNAI Ranks:** G5/S2

**Legal Status:** US—none FL—Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US—UPL FL—UPL



Gil Nelson

**Field Description:** Perennial **herb** growing in clumps on tree branches or on fallen logs. **Stems** 3 - 16 inches tall, erect or vine-like, often branched, with clear sap. **Leaves** 1 - 5 inches long, alternate, oval to narrowly spoon-shaped, base wedge-shaped, tip notched or rounded. **Leaf stalk** about 1/3 of the length of the blade; neither winged, inflated, nor clasping the stem at the base. **Flowers and fruits** tiny, in thin, erect spikes, 2.2 - 9 inches long.

**Similar Species:** Pepper-elder (*Peperomia pellucida*), native to South America, has rounded leaf bases and pointed tips. Winged peperomia (*Peperomia alata*) has winged leaf stalks and elongated leaves.

**Related Rare Species:** Three other species of peperomia are state-endangered. Spoonleaf peperomia (*P. magnoliifolia*) has short leaf stalks and resin-dotted leaves. Cypress peperomia (*P. glabella*) is covered with black, glandular dots. Clasping peperomia (*P. amplexicaulis*) is a vine with clasping leaves. See also low peperomia (*P. humilis*) in this guide.

# Florida peperomia

# *Peperomia obtusifolia*

**Habitat:** Rockland hammocks, hydric hammocks, strand swamps.

**Best Survey Season:** All year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** FL , West Indies, Mexico, tropical South America.

**Conservation Status:** Florida peperomia occurs in many conservation areas but is vulnerable to plant poaching and to exotic plant invasion.

**Protection & Management:** Eradicate exotic plant species. Enforce plant protection laws and prosecute plant poachers.

**References:** Boufford1982, Coile 2000, FNA 1997, IRC 1999, Small 1931b, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

