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

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.