

FLORIDA JOINTWEED

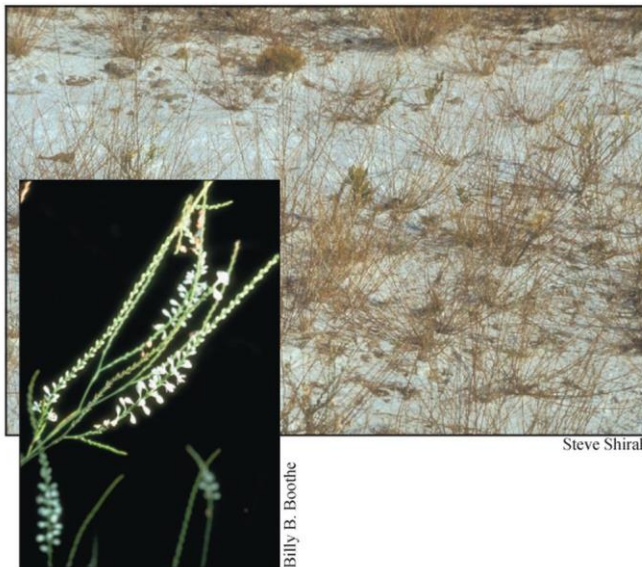
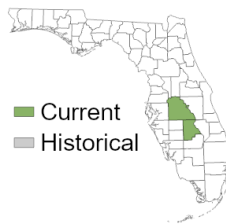
Polygonella basiramia (Small) Nesom & Bates

Synonyms: *Delopyrum basiramia* Small;
Delopyrum basiramium Small; *Polygonella*
ciliata Meisn. var. *basiramia* (Small) Horton;
Polygonum basiramium (Small) T.M. Schust. &
Reveal

Family: Polygonaceae (buckwheat)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S3

Legal Status: US-Endangered; FL-Endangered



Field Description: Perennial **herb** with slender, wiry, red or green **stems** to 81 cm tall; **stems** branch at ground level and appear jointed. **Leaves** tiny, alternate, red or green, with **ocrea** (papery sheaths) covering the stems between leaves; **ocrea** with 2 or more long bristles at the top. Slender **flower spikes** emerge from small, overlapping, bristle-tipped ocrea. **Flowers** very small, with no petals and 5 white to pinkish sepals; plants have either all female flowers or all perfect flowers (both male and female parts present in the same flower).

Similar Species: Hairy jointweed (*Polygonella ciliata*) branches 10 - 50 cm above ground and has hairy ocrea. Wireweed (*Polygonella gracilis*) drops its leaves at flowering and lacks bristles on the ocrea.

Related Rare Species: See Small's jointweed (*P. myriophylla*) in this guide.

Habitat: Rosemary phase of sand pine scrub on white sands at higher elevations of the Lake Wales, Winter Haven, and Bombing Range Ridges.

Florida jointweed

Polygonella basiramia

Best Survey Season: Summer-fall.

Range-wide Distribution: Polk and Highlands counties, FL.

Conservation Status: Rosemary scrub habitat has been greatly reduced, and fewer than 150 populations remain; however, many large populations are protected on about a dozen parks and conservation areas.

Protection and Management: Florida jointweed requires large-scale natural disturbance, such as catastrophic fire, every 10 - 40 years, to create openings in scrub for seed germination.

References: Coile 2000, Hawkes and Menges 1995, 1996; Kral 1983, Menges and Kohfeldt 1995, Nesom and Bates 1984, USFWS 1998, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011

