

SANDHILL JOINTWEED

Polygonella fimbriata (Ell.) Horton

Synonyms: *Thysanella fimbriata* (Elliott) A.

Gray; *Polygonum fimbriatum* Elliott;

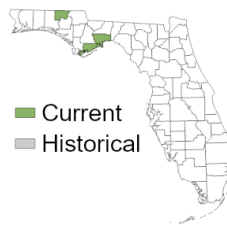
Polygonella fimbriata (Ell.) Horton var.

fimbriata

Family: Polygonaceae (buckwheat)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S1

Legal Status: US-none; FL-none



Flowers with fimbriate inner perianth segment. Photo © Alan Cressler.

Field Description: Annual **herb** or **sub-shrub**, gynomonocious, 10 - 60 cm tall. **Stems** erect, simple or sparingly branched proximally, scabrous or, sometimes, glabrous proximally. **Leaves** persistent; ocrea margins ciliate; blade linear to falcate, (10-) 19 - 36 (-50) by (0.6-) 1 - 1.5 (-3) mm, base tapered, margins not hyaline, apex acuminate, minutely scabrous. **Inflorescences** (5-) 10 - 24 (-30) mm; ocreola encircling rachis, only the base adnate to rachis, apex acuminate. **Pedicels** spreading in anthesis and fruit, 0.1 - 0.7 mm, as long as or much longer than subtending ocreola. **Flowers** bisexual or some pistillate, these usually distal; outer tepals loosely appressed in anthesis and fruit, pink with white margins, often drying orange, ovate, 1.1 - 2.3 mm in anthesis, margins erose; inner and transitional tepals loosely appressed in anthesis and fruit, pink with white margins, often drying orange, oblong, 1.2 - 2.2 mm in anthesis, margins deeply fringed; filaments monomorphic; anthers pink; styles and stigmas 0.6 - 1.3 mm in anthesis. **Achenes** included or exserted, yellow-brown, 3-gonous, 1.5 - 2.5 by 1 - 1.5 mm, shiny and smooth proximally, dull to shiny and minutely roughened distally.

sandhill jointweed

Polygonella fimbriata

Similar Species: There are a number of jointweed (*Polygonella*) species in Florida, but the one most similar to sandhill jointweed is largeflower jointweed (*Polygonella robusta*) a common species throughout Florida. Both can be differentiated from other jointweed species by their fimbriate inner perianth segment and monomorphic stamen filaments. Sandhill jointweed can be differentiated from largeflower jointweed by the lack of hyaline-bordered leaves and the minute but densely scabrous hairs on the stem, whereas largeflower has hyaline-bordered leaves and glabrous or slightly scabrous stem. Sandhill jointweed is generally smaller in stature and has thinner inflorescences than largeflower jointweed.

Related Rare Species: There are four species of rare jointweed (*Polygonella*) species in Florida; Florida jointweed (*Polygonella basiramia*), large-leaved jointweed (*Polygonella macrophylla*), Small's jointweed (*Polygonella myriophylla*), and glaucous knotweed (*Polgonum glaucum*).

Habitat: Scrub and dunes.

Best Survey Season: Flowering: July to October

Range-wide Distribution: Sandhill jointweed is known from eastern GA, southeast AL, and panhandle FL occurring in longleaf pine sandhills.

Conservation Status: There are few known occurrences of this species in Florida. All occurrences of this species in Florida have been recorded on Conservation Lands, but most sites are heavily disturbed roadsides. Most populations have not been re-assessed in over 40 years so the population size is not known. This species is vulnerable to threats from human impacts by roads, recreation, and non-native invasive species which occur on and around all the known populations in the state.

Protection and Management: All of the known populations occur on managed land.

References: Nelson & Bates 1984, Horton 1961, Weakley, A. S. and the Southeastern Flora Team 2024.