GLAUCOUS KNOTWEED
Polygonum glaucum Nutt.
Synonyms: none
Family: Polygonaceae (buckwheat)
FNAI Ranks: G3/SH
Legal Status: US-none FL-none

Close-up of flower. Photo © Scott Ward.

Field Description: Herbaceous, low-growing and sprawling annual with fleshy **stems** 8 - 28 inches long. The **leaves** are simple, entire, lanceolate, alternately arranged, rolled inward, and have a blue-green glaucous surface. The papery sheath (ocrea) that encircles the stem around the leaf stalks and is typical of members of this family is fringed and silvery. The tiny **flowers** have white or pink spreading tepals and have eight stamens. The **fruit** is a 3-segmented, smooth and glossy achene about 0.1 in long.

Similar Species: Prostrate knotweed (*Polygonum aviculare*) has green leaves that are not waxy and tepals appressed to the achene. It occurs in disturbed areas and is not native in Florida.

Related Rare Species: Small's jointweed (*Polygonella myriophylla*) and Florida jointweed (*Polygonella basiramia*), also members of the Polygonaceae family, are both state and federally listed endangered species, occurring only in central peninsular Florida

Habitat: In other states, this species is known to occur on the sandy shores of beaches and in dune habitat.

glaucous knotweed ***Polygonum glaucum***

Best Survey Season: Plants flower May-October.

Range-wide Distribution: This species currently occurs in coastal regions from Maine to North Carolina and historically also occurred in South Carolina and Georgia.

Conservation Status: There are not believed to be any extant populations of the species in Florida at this time. There were only ever 4 confirmed herbarium specimens of the species in the state, the last of which was seen in 1940. No observations have been made since this time. However, no searches or surveys specifically for this species have been carried out either.

Protection and Management: There are no protection or management needs until populations of this species are relocated in Florida.

References: Weakley 2020, Wunderlin 2011

Whole plant. Photo © Scott Ward.