

LEAFLESS BEAKED LADIES'-TRESSES

Sacoila lanceolata (Aubl.) Garay

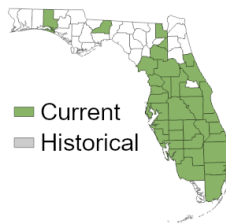
Synonyms: *Sacoila lanceolata* (Aubl.) Garay
var. *lanceolata* ; *Spiranthes lanceolata* (Aubl.)

Leon

Family: Orchidaceae (orchid)

FNAI Ranks: G4/S3

Legal Status: US-none; FL-Threatened



Plant leafless when flowering; entire plant covered in dense glandular hairs; flowers red. Photo taken at Salt Lake WMA by Kelly Anderson.

Field Description: The species is **leafless** at anthesis, has **dorsal sepals** 19 - 23 mm long, **flowers** most often red, but sometimes light green, typically flowering between April and June, and occupying open, sunny pine flatwoods and road shoulders throughout Florida.

Similar Species: The related Fakahatchee ladies'-tresses (*Sacoila paludicola*) has oblong-linear leaves present at anthesis, dorsal sepals 9 - 11 mm long, and flowering typically between January and March within shaded hammocks of south Florida.

Related Rare Species: The related Fakahatchee ladies'-tresses (*Sacoila paludicola*) has oblong-linear leaves present at anthesis, dorsal sepals 7 - 9 mm long, and flowering typically between January and March within shaded hammocks of south Florida.

leafless beaked ladies'-tresses

Sacoila lanceolata

Habitat: Pine flatwoods, roadsides, and pastures.

Best Survey Season: Flowering spring - summer.

Range-wide Distribution: Panhandle of FL to south FL, West Indies, Mexico, Central America and South America.

Conservation Status: The species often occupies converted landscapes, such as roadsides through pine flatwoods and bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*) pastures or roadsides. It persists well in altered landscapes, similar to the giant orchid (*Orthochilus ecristatus*), and seems secure at the present time.

Protection and Management: The continued application of prescribed fire to maintain open pine flatwoods, mowing of roadsides, and burning/mowing of pastures.

References: Long and Lakela 1971, Weakley 2022, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011



Often found growing in disturbed sites such as roadsides and pine flatwoods. Photo taken at Salt Lake WMA by Kelly Anderson.

