

FAKAHATCHEE LADIES'-TRESSES

Sacoila paludicola (Luer) P.M. Brown

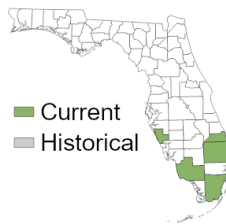
Synonyms: *Spiranthes lanceolata* (Aubl.)

Leon var. *paludicola* Luer; *Sacoila lanceolata* (Aubl.) Garay var. *paludicola* (Luer) Saulea, Wunderlin & B.F. Hansen; *Stenorrhynchos lanceolatum* (Aubl.) L.C. Rich. var. *paludicola* (Luer) Schrenk

Family: Orchidaceae (orchid)

FNAI Ranks: G4T1/S1S2

Legal Status: US-none; FL-none



Closeup of the flower. © Pete Diamond.

Field Description: Leaves present at flowering time. **Inflorescences** 3 - 15 cm; floral bracts red, lanceolate, 12 - 15 mm. **Flowers** 9 - 29, deep red; dorsal sepal 9 - 11 x 3.5 - 4.5 mm; lateral sepals 12 - 14 x 33 - 42 mm, connate 1 - 2 mm over basal portion of mentum, distinct portion of mentum 0.8 - 1.2 mm; petals 9 - 10.5 x 2.2 - 2.8 mm; lip red to pale red, 11 - 13 x 3.8 - 4.5 mm; column 6 - 7.5 mm from attachment of dorsal sepal to tip, foot extending back 3 - 4 mm; pollinaria 3 - 3.5 mm; viscidium 2.9 - 3.1 mm; pedicellate ovary 12 - 15 mm; rostellum 2.3 - 2.8 mm. **Capsules** 12 x 6 mm. **Seeds** monoembryonic. (FNA 2023).

Similar Species: Leafless beaked ladies'-tresses (*Sacoila lanceolata*) is a more common species of this genus with white, green, pinkish, or red flowers, occurring throughout the peninsula and also in Walton County in hammocks, flatwoods, and disturbed areas. Its leaves disappear before flowering and re-emerge in the fall.

Related Rare Species: More than 70 other species of native orchids are listed in FL as threatened or endangered.

Habitat: Cypress swamps, middens, hydric hammocks, roadsides, old fields and flatwoods.

Best Survey Season: Flowers January through March.

Range-wide Distribution: West Indies and Florida. In Florida, found in central and southern Florida coastal counties from Martin and Sarasota County south to Collier and Miami-Dade County.

Conservation Status: Plants occur in multiple conservation areas, although some of these may be planted. Most populations are still subject to impacts by off-road-vehicles and to collecting by plant poachers.

Protection and Management: Protect swamps from hydrologic alterations, logging, draining, and filling. Enforce plant protection laws and prosecute plant poachers. Monitor impact of off-road-vehicles in natural areas. Eradicate exotic pest plants.

References: Brown, P.M. 2002. Wild Orchids of Florida. University Press of Florida, Gainesville. Coile 2000, IRC 1999, Luer 1972, McCartney 1985b, Tatje 1980b, Weakley 2023, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.



Closeup of flower. © Keith Bradley

