

## SMOOTH HEDGENETTLE

*Stachys tenuifolia* Willd.

**Synonyms:** *Stachys hyssopifolia* Michx. var. *lythroides* (Small) J. Nelson; *Stachys lythroides* Small

**Family:** Lamiaceae (mint)

**FNAI Ranks:** G5/S1

**Legal Status:** US-none; FL-Endangered



Leaves variously hairy but never white hairy. Photo taken at Joe Budd WMA by Kelly Anderson.

**Field Description:** A short-rhizomatous plant with square, upright, rough-hairy stems, opposite crenate to serrate rough-hairy leaves avg. 5 - 15 mm wide on very short petioles 1 - 2 mm long with stems glabrous on the sides below the terminal inflorescence of pink flowers, which occur in whorls.

**Similar Species:** A similar species, is the common Florida betony (*S. floridana*), which has ovate to lanceolate leaves on evident petioles, glabrate to short retrorse pubescent on the stem angles and evident tubers on the stringy roots.

**Related Rare Species:** A similar species, shade betony (*S. agraria*), is separated from hyssopleaf hedge-nettle by its ovate leaves on long petioles (vs. sessile to very-short petiolate), 2 - 4 mm long calyx, and its annual habit (vs. perennial).

**Habitat:** Bottomland forest, floodplain swamp, alluvial forest, and R-O-Ws through these habitats; also occurring on natural pond margins.

**Best Survey Season:** Summer-fall.

**Range-wide Distribution:** NJ and NY west to IL and IA, south to GA and FL. (Range = *Stachys aspera* Michaux (Syn. = *S. hyssopifolia* Michx. var. *lythroides* (Small) J.B.Nelson))

**Conservation Status:** There are currently only 6 populations known within FL; 3 populations are on private plantations where management practices are not always ecologically sound, one population is adjacent to a managed area along a gas line R-O-W where it is maintained by mowing, and one population is unprotected.

**Protection and Management:** Protect bottomland forest habitat from logging and clearing, encourage R-O-W managers to mow areas through these habitats, and survey for the species in June and July, with emphasis on the Ochlockonee River corridor above Lake Talquin.

**References:** Weakley 2022, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, FNAI 2010