

SCRUB STYLISMA

Stylisma abdita Myint

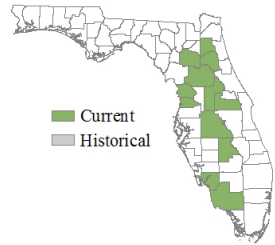
Synonyms: none

Family: Convolvulaceae (morning-glory)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none FL-none



Field Description: Small **perennial herb** with 1 ft-long **stems** trailing over the ground from a taproot or underground stem; short (<.5 inch), hairy, linear **leaves** alternate along the stem; small (.5 inch), white funnel-shaped **flowers** are borne individually on short stalks in the axils of the leaves.

Similar Species: Can be distinguished from coastalplain dawnflower (*Stylisma patens*) by its smaller, more crowded leaves and smaller flowers whose corollas are less than 2X as long as their sepals (vs. more than 2X as long), and from hairy dawnflower (*Stylisma villosa*) by its sessile (vs. stalked) leaves.

Related Rare Species: Florida lady's nightcap (*Bonamia grandiflora*), state-endangered, has large blue flowers, stems up to 3 feet long, and oval leaves with pointed tips. It occurs in openings or disturbed areas in white sand scrub on central Florida ridges.

Habitat: Dry sandy soils in scrub and sandhills. Very inconspicuous plant often hidden by leaf litter or grasses.

Best Survey Season: Flowers March-August

Range-wide Distribution: Florida endemic ranging from Clay County south to Collier County.

Conservation Status: This species inhabits a limited number of sites, but is moderately abundant where found. It is particularly threatened in southern limit of range by loss of scrub habitat to development.

Protection and Management: Inconspicuous plant in open sand may be inadvertently destroyed by management activities. Use prescribed fire to maintain open sand areas.

References: Austin and Burch 1992, Hoffman 29, Wunderlin and Hansen 211, Wunderlin et al. 218.