

PINELAND PENCIL FLOWER

Stylosanthes calcicola Small

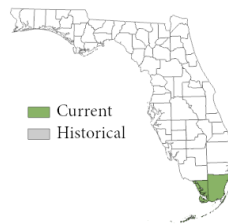
Synonyms: none

Family: Fabaceae (pea)

FNAI Ranks: G3G4/S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL



Gil Nelson

Field Description: Perennial **herb** with thin, wiry, spreading **stems**. **Leaves** alternate with 3 smooth, oval or lance-shaped **leaflets**, each leaflet less than 0.5 inch long, with 3 - 5 pairs of conspicuous **veins**. **Leaf stalk** with a tubular, 7-nerved sheath ending in two long teeth. **Flowers** yellow, typically pea flower-shaped with a large banner petal, in clusters of 2 or more at the ends of stems. **Fruit** a hairy pod usually with a straight tip.

Similar Species: Sidebeak pencil-flower (*Stylosanthes biflora*) is a robust, usually erect plant found in sandhills and hammocks throughout FL; the tip of the legume is turned sharply sideways. Cheesytoes (*Stylosanthes hamata*) is a weedy, introduced roadside species with robust, erect stems and a long, hooked tip on the legume.

Related Rare Species: Other rare pea family species in south Florida included in

pineland pencil flower

Stylosanthes calcicola

this guide: crenulate lead plant (*Amorpha herbacea* var. *crenulata*), meadow jointvetch (*Aeschynomene pratensis* var. *pratensis*), few-flowered nickerbean (*Caesalpinia pauciflora*), big pine partridge pea (*Chamaecrista lineata* var. *keyensis*), Florida prairie clover (*Dalea carthagenensis* var. *floridana*), and Small's milk pea (*Galactia smallii*).

Habitat: Pine rocklands and marl prairies, especially the transition zones between these two communities.

Best Survey Season: Flowers and fruits all year.

Range-wide Distribution: Dade County and Monroe County Keys, FL; Mexico, Guatemala, Cuba.

Conservation Status: 98% of original pine rockland habitat has been destroyed. Only a few populations of this species in 4 conservation areas are known.

Protection and Management: Preserve remaining fragments of pine rockland; use fire to create mosaic of rockland habitats; eradicate exotic pest plant species.

References: Coile 2000, Correll and Correll 1982, IRC 2000, Isely 1990, Small 1933, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.