

NARROW-LEAVED SMOOTH ASTER

Symphotrichum concinnum (Willd.)

Mohlenbr.

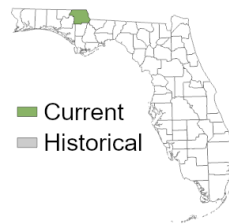
Synonyms: *Symphotrichum laeve* (L.) A.& D.

Löve var. *concinnum* (Willd.) Nesom

Family: Asteraceae (composite)

FNAI Ranks: G5T4/S1

Legal Status: US-none; FL-none



Flowering head of narrow-leaved smooth aster. Photo © Richard and Teresa Ware.

Field Description: Perennial **herb** to 1.2 m tall. **Leaves** cauline; ovate to lanceolate; slightly fleshy in texture; clasping; bluish-glaucous; nearly glabrous; margins scabrous; larger leaves greater than 5 times as long as wide, rarely greater than 2.5 cm wide. **Stems** bluish-glaucous; nearly glabrous (upper stems somewhat hirsute); 0.2 - 0.7 (1.2) m tall. **Phyllaries** bluish-glaucous. Ray **flowers** pale purple and disk flowers yellow.

Similar Species: There are many species of aster (*Symphotrichum*) in Florida, however, this species can be differentiated by its nearly glabrous stems and sessile leaves that are slightly fleshy in texture, clasping and bluish-glaucous.

narrow-leaved smooth aster

Symphyotrichum concinnum

Related Rare Species: There are three other rare aster (*Symphyotrichum*) species in Florida; Gulf Coast Silvery Aster (*Symphyotrichum concolor* var. *devestitum*), Georgia aster (*Symphyotrichum georgianum*), and western silver aster (*Symphyotrichum pratense*). Narrow-leaved smooth aster can be differentiated from these species by its blue-glaucous stems and leaves that are slightly fleshy in texture and clasping.

Habitat: Limestone glade.

Best Survey Season: Flowering: September - October

Range-wide Distribution: This taxon occurs from NY and KY south to GA, Panhandle FL (Jackson County), and MS

Conservation Status: This species occurs in uplands glades in Jackson County, Florida, which is a rare and vulnerable community. There is only one recent record of this species in the state.

Protection and Management: Protection of the glades this plant occurs on is necessary to prevent disturbance to the ground cover and the community itself being degraded or extirpated.

References: Weakley, A. S. and the Southeastern Flora Team 2024



Leaf of narrow-leaved smooth aster. Photo © Lilly Anderson-Messec.