

SEMINOLE HOARY-PEA

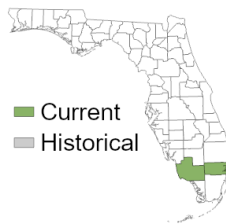
Tephrosia seminole Shinnery

Synonyms: none

Family: Fabaceae (pea)

FNAI Ranks: G1/S1

Legal Status: US-none; FL-Endangered



Flower. © Keith Bradley.

Field Description: Perennial **herb** with straggling or arching **stems**, 20 - 81 cm long. **Leaves** compound with 4 - 18 opposite leaflets, 1.5 - 4.0 cm. **Leaflets** 4 - 8 times long as wide, with broader leaves having reticulate venation between ascending lateral nerves. **Stipule:** 4 - 8 mm long. **Flower** tiny, 0.6 - 1.0 cm long, white to dark pink, typically pea-shaped with a large erect banner petal, with a hairless style (visible with magnification). Flowering in spring. **Fruit** an oblong, flat pod, 3 - 15 cm long. Plant minutely strigose.

Similar Species: Formerly a variety of narrowleaf hoary-pea (*Tephrosia angustissima*), coastal hoary-pea (*Tephrosia curtissii*) has shorter stipules 1 - 3 mm long, as opposed to seminole hoary-pea (*Tephrosia seminole*) which has stipules 4 - 8 mm long. Additionally, coastal hoary-pea flowers in the fall, unlike seminole hoary-pea which flowers in the spring. The leaflets of both are much wider (4 - 8 times long as wide) than narrowleaf hoary-pea (10 - 20 times long as wide).

Seminole hoary-pea

Tephrosia seminole

Related Rare Species: Both former varieties of narrowleaf hoary-pea (*Tephrosia angustissima*), coastal hoary-pea (*Tephrosia curtissii*) and seminole hoary-pea (*Tephrosia seminole*) are relatively rare.

Habitat: Open pineland within the everglades.

Best Survey Season: Flowers in March.

Range-wide Distribution: S. Florida endemic. Collier County.

Conservation Status: Seminole hoary-pea grows in pinelands in the everglades of Florida, which are both uncommon and highly vulnerable to disturbance. While the only known occurrences are on protected, public lands, there are only two known populations of this species making it highly vulnerable.

Protection and Management: The only known populations should be protected.

References: Weakley, A. S. and the Southeastern Flora Team 2024. Wunderlin 2011.



Photo © Keith Bradley.