WEDGELEAF WHITLOWGRASS

Tomostima cuneifolia (Nuttall ex Torrey & A. Gray) Al-Shehbaz, M. Koch, & Jordon-Thaden

Synonyms: *Draba cuneifolia* Nutt. ex Torr. & Gray

Family: Brassicaceae (mustard)

FNAI Ranks: G5T5/S1S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-none

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-Not given

No Image Available

Field Description: Stems hirsute with at least some simple trichomes. **Racemes** often on distal 1/3–1/2 of scape. **Fruits** oblong to linear or lanceolate, (5–)7–12(–16) mm; valves: trichomes simple, sometimes with 2-rayed ones; ovules (20–)32–66(–72) per ovary. (FNA 2023).

Similar Species: Shortpod Draba (*Abdra brachycarpa*) occupies similar disturbed habitats but the silique is smaller (1-6 mm long) than wedgeleaf whitlowgrass (8-14 mm long; Weakley 2023).

Related Rare Species: This is the only species of the genus *Tomostima* that is found in Florida.

wedgeleaf whitlowgrass ***Tomostima cuneifolia***

Habitat: Historically calcareous barrens and glades, preferring rocky, bare soil, and limestone outcrops; extant occurrences in disturbed areas and roadsides (Weakley 2023).

Best Survey Season: Flowers February through April; fruits March through May.

Range-wide Distribution: Known from Florida (Jackson, Levy, and St. Johns counties) and Georgia coastal plain west to California and north to Pennsylvania.

Conservation Status: There are only two known extant occurrences of this species, but one population is located on managed land: Guana River Marsh Aquatic Preserve. True population sizes of either occurrence not known. This species historically occurred in Jackson County on calcareous barrens and glades, but currently (January 2024) also occurs in disturbed and open sandy areas. This species seems drastically undersurveyed; surveys should be conducted near known occurrences as well as calcareous barrens and glades in Jackson and nearby counties. Roadside management practices (i.e. herbiciding) should be reduced near known occurrences.

Protection and Management: Reduce roadside management practices (i.e. herbiciding) near known occurrences. Eradicate exotic plant pests.

References: Flora of North America (FNA) 2023, Weakley 2023, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011.