HOOP VINE

Trichostigma octandrum (L.) H. Walt.

Synonyms: none

Family: Petiveriaceae (petiveria)

FNAI Ranks: G4G5/S1S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-NI+ FL-FACU

No Image Available

Field Description: Plants suberect, to 10 m, glabrous. **Leaves**: petiole 0.6–3.5(–5) cm; blade elliptic, elliptic-lanceolate or oblong to ovate, to 15 × 7 cm, base rounded to cuneate, apex acuminate or acute to obtuse. **Racemes** 5–10 cm; peduncle 1.3–3 cm; pedicel 3–10 mm. **Flowers** sepals white or greenish white to red or purplish in age, ovate to obovate, 3–6 mm. **Berries** 4–6 mm diam. **Seeds** black, lenticular, 4–5 mm. (FNA 2023).

Similar Species: Rouge-plant (*Rivina humilis*) can grow in similar habitats but is a perennial herb 0.4-2 meters tall rather than a woody vine, like *Trichostigma octandrum* (Weakley 2023).

Related Rare Species: This is the only species in the *Trichostigma* genus that occurs in Florida.

Habitat: Tropical hammocks, shell middens, bayheads, and disturbed areas.

Best Survey Season: February through May.

Range-wide Distribution: Southern peninsular Florida from Martin County Miami-Dade and Monroe County. Also native to West Indies, Mexico, Central America, and South America.

Conservation Status: While several recent population discoveries have been made in the last twenty years (January 2024), there are still only ten extant occurrences for this species. True population sizes of many occurrences are not fully known, but documented as being rampant and vigorous at these sites. There has been considerable development and habitat alteration in the area where this species occurs, and there are two occurrences that are thought to be extirpated due to urban development. It would benefit this species to continue protecting remaining tropical hammocks and shell middens from development, and to monitor populations for potential effects of sea level rise.

Protection and Management: Protect tropical hammocks and shell middens from development. Eradicate exotic pest plants.

References: Flora of North America (FNA) 2003, Francis 2004, Ward 2003, Weakley 2023, Wilder and Roche 2009, Wunderlin 2017.