

## CLASPING WAREA

*Warea amplexifolia* (Nutt.) Nutt.

**Synonyms:** *Stanleya amplexifolia* Nutt.;

*Warea auriculata* Shinnery

**Family:** Brassicaceae (mustard)

**FNAI Ranks:** G1/S1

**Legal Status:** US-Endangered; FL-Endangered



© Michael Jenkins

**Field Description:** Annual **herb** with slender, usually branching, stems 0.3 - 0.7 m tall. **Leaves** to 5 cm long, alternate, pale green, waxy, slightly fleshy, heart-shaped, clasping the stem, with rounded tips and entire margins. **Flowers** about 13 mm wide, pink to purple, with 4 paddle-shaped petals and 6 long stamens, in showy clusters at the top of the stems. **Fruit** up to 4 - 7 cm long, in clusters of narrow, down-curving pods that split lengthwise.

**Similar Species:** Wedge-leaf warea (*Warea cuneifolia*) and sessile-leaf warea (*Warea sessilifolia*) occur only in the Panhandle. Clammyweed (*Polanisia tenuifolia*) resembles clasping warea at the end of the growing season except it has upturned pods. The flowers and fruit of the common garden spiderflower (*Cleome hassleriana*) resemble clasping warea's although they are much larger.

**Related Rare Species:** See Carter's mustard (*Warea carteri*), whose range slightly overlaps clasping warea's, in this guide.

**Habitat:** Limited to sunny openings with exposed sand in longleaf pine/turkey oak/wiregrass sandhills.

**Best Survey Season:** Spring-summer; September - October; seedlings may be identified as early as April, and mature plants during the spring and summer by their leaves.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to central FL.

**Conservation Status:** Twenty-four mapped occurrences, but 10 are extirpated or likely extirpated. Most are threatened with habitat fragmentation, fire suppression, and/or invasive species. Only extant on four Conservation Lands.

**Protection and Management:** Protection/acquisition of all existing occurrences. Protect privately owned sandhills by purchase or conservation easement. Manage sites with fire and monitor its effects. Eradicate invasive exotic grass species. Establish new populations in conservation areas.

**References:** Coile 2000, Kral 1983, USFWS 1993c, USFWS 1996, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a., USFWS 2017

clasping warea

*Warea amplexifolia*

