

SAND BUTTERFLY PEA

Centrosema arenicola (Small) F.J. Herm.

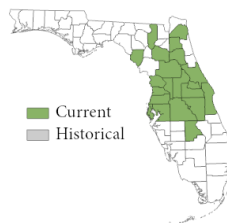
Synonyms: *Bradburya arenicola* Small;
Centrosema floridanum (Britton) Lakela

Family: Fabaceae (pea)

FNAI Ranks: G2Q/S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL



Gil Nelson

Photo taken by Gil Nelson.

Field Description:

Similar Species: Common butterfly pea (*Centrosema virginianum*) stems are less than 5' long; leaflets are longer (to 2.8"), narrow, and linear; lighter green, not leathery; calyx lobes are all narrowly pointed and about the same size.

Related Rare Species: Scrub pigeon-wing (*Clitoria fragrans*) is a similar rare species in the legume family. Scrub pigeon-wing is an erect herb, not a vine; its flowers are similar to sand butterfly pea flowers, but the banner petal is not notched; pods lack the long beak; and bracts at the base of the flower are tiny, not covering the calyx.

Habitat: Sandhill, scrubby flatwoods, dry upland woods.

Best Survey Season: Summer-fall; June - October. Each flower lasts one day.

sand butterfly pea

Centrosema arenicola

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to central FL.

Conservation Status: Over half of the 38 known populations occur on protected land.

Protection and Management: Purchase and protect sandhill and other dry upland habitats. Burn sandhills and flatwoods every 2 - 3 years. Conduct surveys for more plants.

References: Coile 2000, Isely 1990, Small 1933, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Wunderlin et al. 2018.