

SCRUB PIGEON-WING

Clitoria fragrans Small

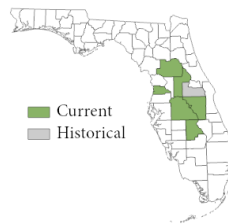
Synonyms: *Martusia fragrans* (Small) Small

Family: Fabaceae (pea)

FNAI Ranks: G2G3/S2S3

Legal Status: US-Threatened FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-none



Billy B. Boothe

Field Description: Perennial **herb** 6 - 20 inches tall, with erect, purplish, waxy **stems**. **Leaves** alternate, with 3 leathery **leaflets**, 0.8 to 2 inches long, narrowly oblong, leaflet tip rounded with a minute bristle, upper surface dark green with conspicuous veins, lower surface pale green and waxy. **Flowers** showy, fragrant; 2 short wing petals curve forward, almost covering 2 keel petals; banner petal almost 2 inches long, pink to lavender-blue with purplish veins and large white spot; flowers twisted on their stalks so that the banner petal is lowest. **Fruit** a pod, 1 - 2 inches long on 0.5 inch stalk, waxy, flattened, depressed between the seeds.

Similar Species: Pigeon-wing (*Clitoria mariana*) has similar flowers, but is a trailing vine with tendrils and oval or lance-shaped leaves.

Related Rare Species: Sand butterfly pea (*Centrosema arenicola*) has similar flowers, but it is a trailing vine, leaflets are ovate with a papery texture, and the lower

scrub pigeon-wing

Clitoria fragrans

banner petal is notched.

Habitat: Turkey oak barrens with wiregrass, bluejack and turkey oak; also scrub, sandhills, and dry roadsides.

Best Survey Season: Spring; May - June.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to Central Florida, occurring mostly along the Lake Wales Ridge. From Marion County south through Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk and Highlands counties.

Conservation Status: Approximately 45 of the 63 element occurrences for scrub pigeon-wing are on protected lands. Private sites are threatened with agricultural and residential development.

Protection and Management: Apply prescribed fire to scrub and turkey oak barrens to create a mosaic of habitats. Purchase and protect private sites. Prevent vehicle access to sites.

References: Coile 2000, Fantz 1977, Isely 1990, Kral 1983, Small 1926c, USFWS 1998, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.