

## SMALL'S MILKPEA

*Galactia smallii* H.J. Rogers ex Herndon

**Synonyms:** *Galactia prostrata* Small

**Family:** Fabaceae (pea)

**FNAI Ranks:** G1Q/S1

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

**Wetland Status:** US-none+ FL-UPL



Gil Nelson

**Field Description:** Perennial **herb** with trailing **stems** up to 6 feet long, twining at tips, appearing gray due to dense covering of short hairs. **Leaves** alternate, with three broadly oval leaflets, each less than 1 inch long; **leaflets** densely hairy (visible only with magnification). Typical pea **flowers** with a large upright banner petal, pale pink to purple, less than 0.5 inch long, in clusters of 1 to 5 at ends of the stems or on stalks rising from the angle of leaf and stem. **Fruit** a hairy pod, about 1.5 inches long.

**Similar Species:** Small's milkpea is distinguished from other *Galactia* species by the type and abundance of stem and leaf hairs, and by shape of the leaflets. Florida milkpea (*Galactia floridana*) leaflets are longer and wider and have visibly hairy upper surfaces; although Florida milkpea stems are hairy, they appear green rather than gray.

## Small's milkpea

*Galactia smallii*

**Related Rare Species:** Pineland milkpea (*Galactia pinetorum*), an imperiled species that is endemic to FL's pine rocklands, is considered of management concern by USFWS. Similar to Small's milkpea, pineland milkpea is distinguished by oblong or linear leaflets lacking hairs on upper surfaces.

**Habitat:** Redland pine rocklands of southern Dade County, with South Florida slash pine, saw palmetto, willow bustic, and poisonwood.

**Best Survey Season:** Spring-summer; few weeks following fire, primarily in the summer.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to Dade County, FL.

**Conservation Status:** 98% of original pine rockland habitat is gone. Only 6 populations on 5 managed areas remain.

**Protection and Management:** Preserve remaining fragments of pine rockland; use fire to create mosaic of habitats; eradicate exotic pest plant species.

**References:** Coile 2000, Herndon 1981, IRC 1999, Isely 1990, O'Brien 1994, USFWS 1998, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.