

## FLORIDA BONAMIA

*Bonamia grandiflora* (Gray) Hallier f.

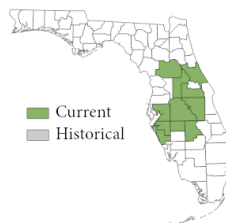
**Synonyms:** *Breweria grandiflora* A. Gray

**Family:** Convolvulaceae (morning-glory)

**FNAI Ranks:** G3/S3

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

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



Sprawling vines with partially open flowers. © Robert Gundy

**Field Description:** Perennial trailing **vine** with stout **stems** up to 3 feet long; **leaves** 1 - 2 inches long, grading into small bracts at the end of the stem; oval with pointed tips, entire margins, short, silky hairs, and very short leaf stalks. **Flowers** 3 - 4 inches long, solitary, with 5 lobes and 5 leathery, unequal sepals in two series. **Flowers** bright blue with a white throat in the morning but fading to pale blue by early afternoon when they close; somewhat resembles a common morning-glory.

**Similar Species:** Florida bonamia is the only member of this genus in Florida; it is distinguished from common morning-glories by its small, oval leaves with entire margins and shorter, trailing (rather than high-climbing) stems. Several species of dawnflower (*Stylisma* spp.), also in the morning-glory family, occur in scrub, sandhill, and dry hammocks. Dawnflowers have small white flowers, slender stems, and non-leathery sepals.

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## *Bonamia grandiflora*

**Related Rare Species:** Scrub stylisma (*Stylisma abdita*), state-endangered, has small white flowers, short stems, and very small leaves. It occurs in scrub and dry pinelands in central and south FL.

**Habitat:** Openings or disturbed areas in white sand scrub on central Florida ridges, with scrub oaks, sand pine, and lichens.

**Best Survey Season:** Spring-summer; May - August, but leaves and vines are distinctive all year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to central Florida scrub.

**Conservation Status:** Only 100 populations remain, of which about 35 are protected on 15 managed areas. It is most abundant in the Ocala National Forest. Florida bonamia habitat has been drastically reduced and fragmented by citrus groves, housing developments, and fire suppression.

**Protection and Management:** Apply periodic fires to stimulate flowering, seed set, and germination. Avoid soil disturbance and use of general herbicides in rights-of-way; control exotics such as cogongrass with grass-specific herbicides. Mow only during dormancy (fall-winter).

**References:** Christman and Judd 1990, Coile 2000, Hartnett and Richardson 1989, IRC 1999, Lee 1999, Small 1933, USFWS 1996, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.



Fully open flowers. © Gil Nelson