

FLORIDA GOLDENASTER

Chrysopsis floridana Small

Synonyms: *Heterotheca floridana* (Small) R.W. Long; *Chrysopsis mariana* (L.) Ell. var. *floridana* (Small) Fernald

Family: Asteraceae (composite)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL



Field Description: Perennial **herb**, 10 - 16 inches tall, with woody base and wooly, erect branches rising from a rosette of spoon-shaped leaves, covered with dense mat of fine, silky hairs. **Stem leaves** 0.5 - 1.2 inches long, densely short-hairy at mid-stem, somewhat wider above the middle with rounded tips, slightly clasping the stem; sometimes crowded and overlapping on lower stem. **Leaves** on upper stems about the same size as lower leaves; leaves are smooth or hairy but never glandular. **Flower heads** about 1 inch across, in flat-topped clusters of up to 25 heads at the top of the stem, with golden yellow disk and ray flowers, surrounded by 3 - 4 series of small **bracts**. **Stalks of flower heads** with stalked glands.

Similar Species: Coastalplain goldenaster (*Chrysopsis scabrella*) and DeLaney's Goldenaster (*Chrysopsis delaneyi*) have narrower, pointed, glandular leaves on

upper stems. Maryland goldenaster (*Chrysopsis mariana*) leaves have pointed tips and are reduced in size up the stem; hairs on leaves and stems more cobwebby than densely short-hairy. Highlands goldenaster (*Chrysopsis highlandsensis*) has crowded mid-stem leaves with long hairs and wavy edges.

Related Rare Species: See Godfrey's goldenaster (*Chrysopsis godfreyi*), Cruise's goldenaster (*Chrysopsis gossypina* ssp. *cruiseana*), and Highlands goldenaster (*Chrysopsis highlandsensis*) in this guide.

Habitat: Sunny, bare patches of sand in sand pine scrub and ecotones between this community and scrubby flatwoods; disturbed areas of loose sand; rarely oak hammocks.

Best Survey Season: Flowers mid-late fall

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

Conservation Status: About 40 populations known, almost three-quarters of them on conservation lands.

Protection and Management: Avoid use of herbicides in rights-of-way. Use prescribed fire in scrub and other xeric habitats to create a mosaic of habitats.

References: Coile 2000, Lambert and Menges 1996, Semple 1981, USFWS 1988, USFWS 1998, Ward 1979, Wunderlin et al. 1981a, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011.