

## GARRETT'S SCRUB BALM

*Dicerandra christmanii* R.B. Huck & Judd

**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Lamiaceae (mint)

**FNAI Ranks:** G1/S1

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

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



Gil Nelson

**Field Description:** Low **shrub**, to 1.3 feet tall, with numerous stiff but non-woody, erect, square stems rising from a woody base. **Leaves** about 1 inch long, opposite, entire, narrowly oblong with rounded tips, pitted with glands. **Flowers** 1 - 3 per whorl, less than 0.8 inch long, white or cream-colored with purple spots and lines; 2-lipped with rounded lobes and sharply bent tube; stamens with bright yellow anthers extend beyond the flower. Stems and leaves smell like eucalyptus.

**Similar Species:** Long-spurred mint (*Dicerandra cornutissima*), federal and state-endangered, resembles Garrett's scrub balm in growth form; leaves are narrow, needle-like, and smell of mint; flowers are rose-purple with dark purple lines and dots, whitish throat, and sharply bent flower tube; stamens extend beyond flower, anthers are lavender or white with long, pointed spurs. Also see Lakela's mint (*Dicerandra immaculata*) in this guide.

## Garrett's scrub balm

*Dicerandra christmanii*

**Related Rare Species:** None

**Habitat:** Openings in oak scrub on the Lake Wales Ridge.

**Best Survey Season:** Fall; July - November.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Both species are endemic to FL.

**Conservation Status:** Garrett's scrub balm is known from 5 populations; only one population is protected. Long-spurred mint is known from 15 occurrences; only 6 are protected, all in a single conservation area.

**Protection and Management:** Purchase and protect privately owned sites. Control foot and off-road-vehicle traffic. Eradicate exotic pest plants. Use occasional fire to open up habitat and reduce competition.

**References:** Coile 2000, Eisner et al. 1990, Huck 1981, Huck 1987, Huck et al. 1989, Kral 1983, Menges et al. 1999, USFWS 1986b, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.