

## SCRUB BUCKWHEAT

*Eriogonum longifolium* Nutt.

var. *gnaphalifolium* Gand.

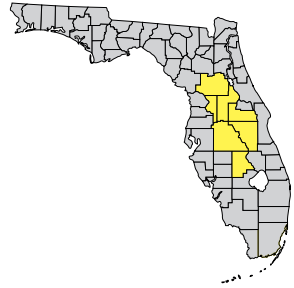
**Synonym:** *Eriogonum floridanum* Small

**Family:** Polygonaceae (buckwheat)

**FNAI Ranks:** G4T3/S3

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

**Wetland Status:** US–UPL FL–UPL



Gil Nelson

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**Field Description:** Perennial **herb** with several erect **stems** up to 3 feet tall. **Basal leaves** 6 - 8 inches long, narrow, bronze-green above and wooly-white beneath, in rosettes; **stem leaves** similar to basal leaves, widely spaced, and alternate. **Stems** topped by loose clusters of smaller branches, each branch supporting 15 - 20 small, white, silky-hairy **flowers** held together in a cup-like structure (**involucre**), with flowers hanging below the rim of the cup.

**Similar Species:** Dog-tongue or wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum tomentosum*) is common in sandhill, scrub, and flatwoods; basal leaves have red midveins and leafstalks; stem leaves are in whorls and have broadly rounded tips.

**Related Rare Species:** Small's jointweed (*Polygonella myriophylla*) and Florida jointweed (*Polygonella basiramia*), also in the buckwheat family, are included in this guide.

## Scrub buckwheat

## *Eriogonum longifolium* var. *gnaphalifolium*

**Habitat:** Sandhill, oak-hickory scrub on yellow sands, high pineland between scrub and sandhill, turkey oak barrens.

**Best Survey Season:**

Flowers May–  
October, or following  
fire.

**Range:** Endemic to  
central Florida.

**Conservation Status:**

About half of 100  
known populations  
are protected, many  
on Ocala National  
Forest.

**Protection &**

**Management:** Use  
prescribed fire to  
create openings in  
scrub and sandhill;  
prevent conversion  
of habitat to agricul-  
ture and pine  
plantations; pur-  
chase populations on  
private lands.

**References:** Coile  
2000, Small 1933,  
USFWS 1998,  
Wunderlin 1998,  
Wunderlin and  
Hansen 2000a.

