

## TAMPA VERVAIN

*Glandularia tampensis* (Nash) Small

**Synonyms:** *Verbena tampensis* Nash

**Family:** Verbenaceae (vervain)

**FNAI Ranks:** G2/S2

**Legal Status:** US-none FL-Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US-FACW+ FL-UPL



Billy B. Boothe

**Field Description:** Perennial **herb** with 4-sided, sprawling **stems** to 2 feet long. **Leaves** 1.5 - 2.5 inches long, margins coarsely toothed although sometimes entire below the middle; leaf tips broadly pointed; upper leaf surface dark green, lower surface pale green; base of leaf narrowing to form wings on the **leaf stalk**; leaf stalk 0.5 - 1 inch long. **Flower** blue-purple, 5-lobed, tube and each lobe approximately 0.5 inch long. **Calyx** with straight, stiff hairs but **no glands**; calyx lobes with bristly tips. Four pitted nutlets approximately 4 mm long comprise the fruit.

**Similar Species:** Five *Glandularia* species occur in Florida with three species that are native (two of which are listed as endangered), and two are listed as non-native species (Wunderlin et al. 2017). *Glandularia tampensis* differs in having leaves that are incised to simply divided, and sepals that have no glands, bristle tips and long hairs (Chafin 2000)

**Related Rare Species:** Coastal vervain (*Glandularia maritima*), state-endangered, resembles Tampa vervain; its flowers are lavender with an orange throat; leaves are more succulent and irregularly lobed and toothed, and have shorter leafstalks; its calyx has stalked glands and pointed but not bristle-tipped lobes. It occurs primarily on the SE FL coast.

**Habitat:** Openings in moist hammocks, live oak-cabbage palm hammocks, pine-palmetto flatwoods and in disturbed, sandy areas.

**Best Survey Season:** Flowers primarily in the spring and intermittently all year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to Florida. On the west coast, extends from Levy south to Lee County and on the east coast, from Volusia to Indian River County.

**Conservation Status:** Tampa vervain has been seen in only one conservation area in the last 20 years; its habitat has been severely reduced by development and silviculture.

**Protection and Management:** Protect coastal habitats from development. Use occasional ground fire in mesic and xeric hammocks and frequent fire in flatwoods. Monitor for and hand pull exotic species posing a threat to plants. Avoid utilizing heavy equipment (mowers, vehicles, ATV's, etc.) along road edge where tampa vervain is known to occur.

**References:** Chafin, L.G. 2000. Field guide to the rare plants of Florida. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida.Kral, R. 1983. A report on some rare, threatened, or endangered forest-related vascular plants of the south. Technical Publication R8-TP2. United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Region, Atlanta Georgia.Umber, R.E. 1979. The genus *Glandularia* (Verbenaceae) in North America. *Systematic Botany* 4(1): 72-102.Wunderlin, R. P., B. F. Hansen, A. R. Franck, and F. B. Essig. 2017. Atlas of Florida Plants (<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>). [S. M. Landry and K. N. Campbell (application development), USF Water Institute.] Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida, Tampa. Accessed May 31, 2017.Coile 2000, IRC 1999, Small 1933, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.