

WILD POTATO MORNING GLORY

Ipomoea microdactyla Griseb.

Synonyms: *Exogonium microdactylum* (Griseb.)

House; *Ipomoea repanda* Jacq. var. *microdactyla* (Griseb.) D.A. Powell

Family: Convolvulaceae (morning-glory)

FNAI Ranks: G2/S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL



Flowering vine. © Robert Gundy

Field Description: Twining **vine** with hairless, somewhat fleshy stems, from a large tuber. **Leaves** alternate, blades 1.2 - 4 inches long, lance-shaped, entire or occasionally with 5 - 7 lobes; leafstalks to 2.4 inches long. **Flowers** bright red; funnel-shaped, the flaring portion about 1 inch across with 5 small tips; tube 1 - 1.5 inches long, stamens and style extending outside the tube; **sepals** rounded or triangular, never with long-pointed tips. **Fruit** a brown capsule.

Similar Species: Cypress vine (*Ipomoea quamoclit*) has red flowers but finely dissected leaves. Scarlet creeper (*Ipomoea hederifolia*) also has red flowers and at least 2 sepals with long-pointed tips. Both are plants of disturbed areas.

Related Rare Species: Rockland morning-glory (*Ipomoea tenuissima*), state-

wild potato morning glory

Ipomoea microdactyla

endangered, has hairy stems and leaves. Leaves vary in shape but are often arrowhead-shaped. Flowers are solitary and purple; stamens and style held inside the tube.

Habitat: Pine rocklands and associated vacant lots.

Best Survey Season: Spring-summer; April - November.

Range-wide Distribution: Wild potato morning-glory: FL, Cuba, Bahamas. Rockland morning-glory: FL, West Indies.

Conservation Status: Wild potato morning-glory: about a dozen populations are known, 10 on conservation areas. Rockland morning-glory: about 15 populations are known, most on conservation lands.

Protection and Management: Purchase remaining fragments of pine rockland and manage for conservation. Control exotic pest plants. Use prescribed fire to create mosaic of rockland habitats.

References: Austin 1984b, Austin and Huaman 1996, Coile 2000, IRC 1999, Small 1933, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.



Flower close-up. © Robert Gundy