

SANDHILL SPINY-POD

Matelea pubiflora (Dcne.) Woods.

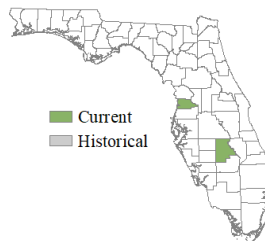
Synonyms: none

Family: Apocynaceae (dogbane)

FNAI Ranks: G3G4/S3S4

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL



Field Description: Sprawling, vinelike herb with milky sap and opposite, cordate leaves less than 2 inches long. The dull yellowish-brown to purple flowers are borne in axillary clusters. Fruits are spiny follicles that open to release seeds with tufts of hairs.

Similar Species: Distinct from Florida spiny-pod (*Matelea floridana*) and angle pod (*Gonolobus suberosus*) by its sprawling, herbaceous habit and by its smaller leaves.

Related Rare Species: All *Matelea* species are state-listed in FL. Sandhill spiny-pod is a low, trailing herb with dull brown-purple flowers and leaves less than 2 inches long. See Alabama spiny pod (*Matelea alabamensis*), state-endangered, in the field guide.

Habitat: Sandhills.

Best Survey Season: Flowers in Spring to Summer (fruits are present in the Fall, and vegetative plants are easily indetifiable).

Range-wide Distribution: Restricted to Florida and Georgia. More common

sandhill spiny-pod

Matelea pubiflora

in Florida.

Conservation Status: Listed state-endangered and tracked as vulnerable, this species is vouchered for 19 counties from Greenville south to Lake Okeechobee, Florida.

Protection and Management: Plants respond well to fire. Avoid mechanical disturbances. Carefully treat cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*) where it is known to be mingled with sandhill spiny-pod.

References: Wunderlin and Hansen 2011.