

CRYSTAL LAKE NAILWORT

Paronychia chartacea Fern.

ssp. *minima* L.C. Anderson

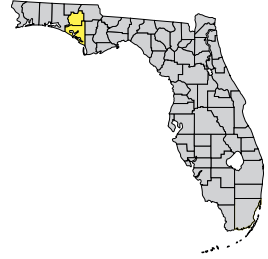
Synonym: *Nyachia pulvinata* Small

Family: Caryophyllaceae (pink)

FNAI Ranks: G3T1/S1

Legal Status: US–Threatened FL–Endangered

Wetland Status: US–none FL–UPL



FNAI

Paronychia chartacea
ssp. *minima*



Paronychia chartacea ssp. *chartacea* Gil Nelson

Field Description (photo, top, and drawing): Annual **herb** with spreading, wiry **stems** rising from a stout taproot. **Stems** either dense and compact (female-flowered plants) or with spindly, forking branches forming cross-shaped patterns (male-flowered plants). **Leaves** tiny, opposite, papery, and scale-like with strongly inrolled margins. **Flowers** tiny, with 5 white, deeply hooded sepals and no petals; in small clusters, 0.5 to 1.5 inches wide.

Similar Species: This is the only *Paronychia* species in the Panhandle with deeply hooded sepals and scale-like leaves. Sand-squares' (*Paronychia erecta*) branches form square or rectangular mats; it occurs on dunes. Rugel's nailwort (*P. rugelii*) has hairy branches that form square mats.

Related Rare Subspecies (photo, bottom, and drawing of flower, lower left): Papery nailwort (*Paronychia chartacea* ssp. *chartacea*), federally threatened, has narrower leaves and larger flower clusters.

Crystal Lake nailwort *Paronychia chartacea* ssp. *minima*

Habitat: Crystal Lake nailwort: sandy openings around sandhill upland lakes and karst ponds. Papery nailwort: Lake Wales Ridge scrub.

Best Survey Season: Late summer and fall.

Range-wide Distribution: Crystal Lake nailwort is endemic to Bay and Washington counties, FL. Papery nailwort occurs in 5 central FL counties.

Conservation Status: Only 9 populations of Crystal Lake nailwort are known, most on private lands; these are threatened by residential development and lakeshore clearing. Papery nailwort occurs on several preserves.

Protection & Management: Leave vegetation around karst ponds intact. Burn surrounding uplands. Protect Lake Wales Ridge scrub through conservation purchases and occasional prescribed fires.

References: Anderson 1991b, Coile 2000, Core 1941, Kral 1983, USFWS 1998, Ward 1977, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

